

Ministerial Discernment Team – Listening Circle Feedback

Around 40 people showed up to participate in the listening circles in October, and a cornucopia of ideas were shared to help us as we begin our journey of discerning an outward-facing ministry the UUC might undertake in the future.

Three questions were asked of the participants:

- Ideas: Do we know of any community-expressed desire or need?
- Strengths/gifts: What strengths/gifts does the UUC have in terms of meeting these needs?
- Concerns/fears: What concerns/fears do you have in regard to an outward-facing ministry?

Some general topics that arose for each of these topics are listed below:

Ideas:

- Our rights in death, education on death & death practices
- Outreach to disenfranchised communities or those needing support - such as prisoners, people experiencing poverty, and senior citizens
- Human rights & activism, such as LGBT+ rights, right to healthcare, religious freedom, climate change, & voter rights
- Creating a space for young adults and connecting with college students
- Fostering community
- Mental health and the stigma surrounding it
- Better support for teachers and low-achieving students

Strengths/gifts:

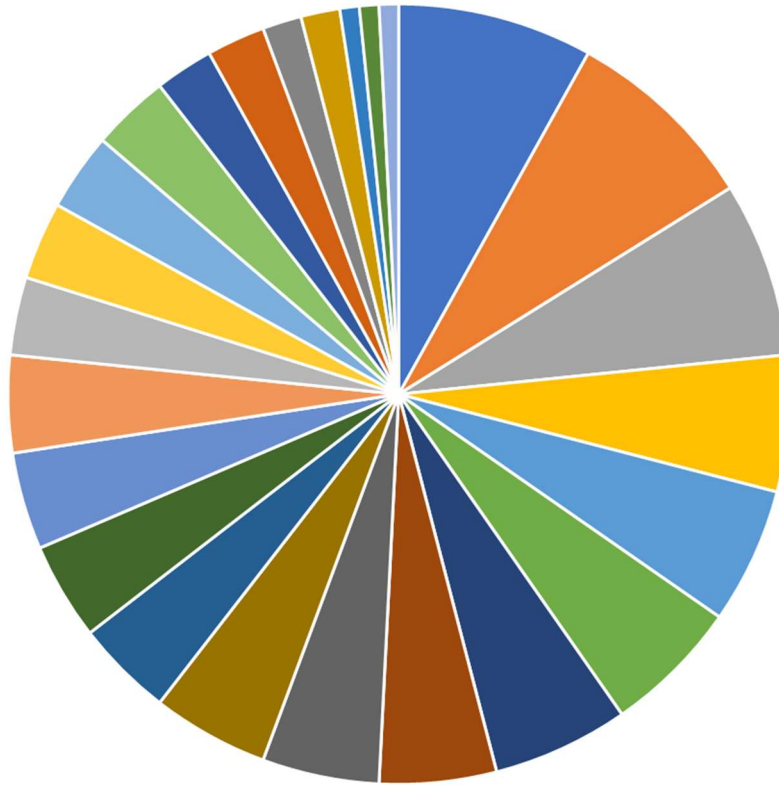
- Our facilities and location
- The many knowledgeable, educated, and accomplished people within our congregation
- Our congregation's generosity, willingness to be involved, and the supportive environment we have

Concerns/fears:

- Unsure of our team's goals and mission
- The congregation relies a lot on a few people
- Not achieving our goals due to lack of leadership, difficulty of involving many people, or disagreement on how to achieve them
- Diluting our outreach to the point that our impact isn't meaningful

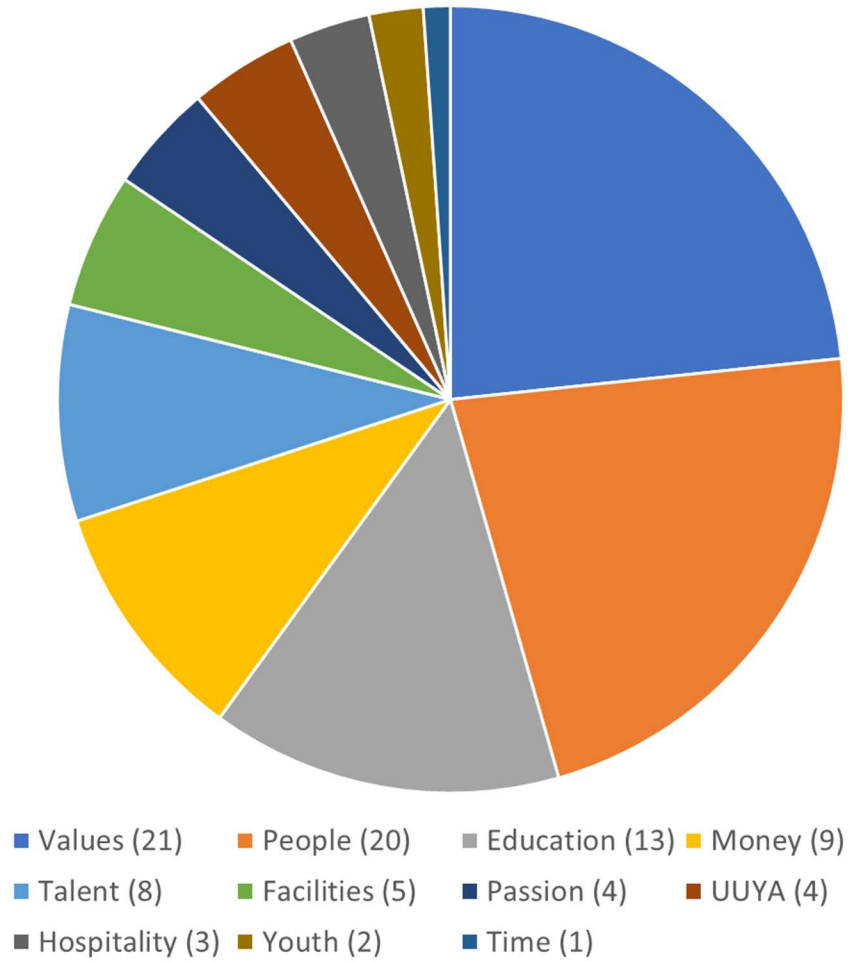
The team is attempting to find where the congregation's interests and gifts overlap with community needs. And, how the congregation's concerns can be alleviated if any efforts made. Each comment received was tagged to indicate the general area(s) that it addressed. The pie-charts below show the frequency with which the different topics came-up.

Ideas

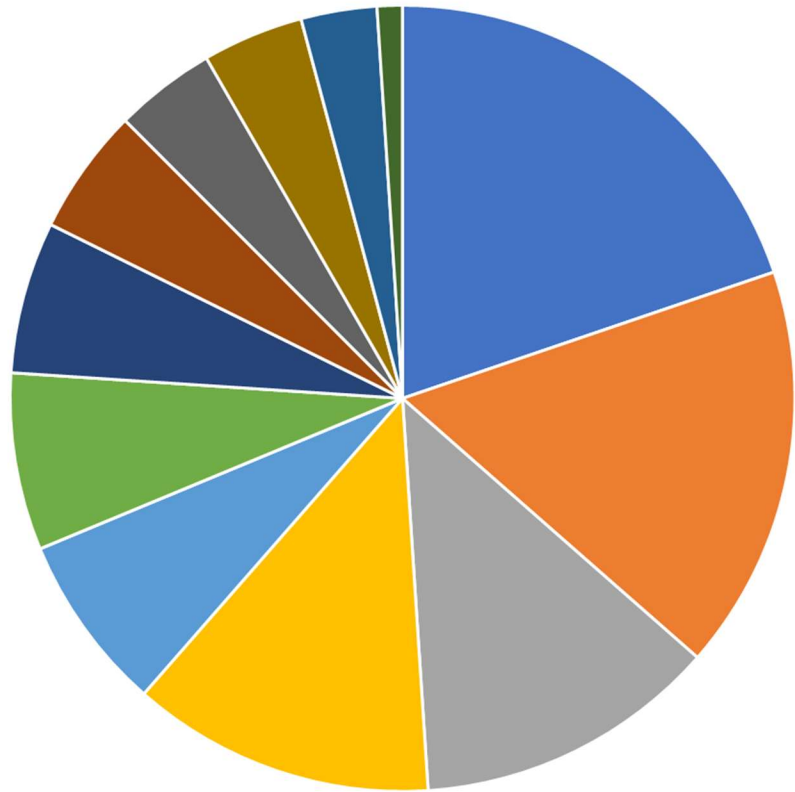


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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ Community (10) | ■ Young Adults (10) |
| ■ Senior Citizen (9) | ■ Education (7) |
| ■ Food (7) | ■ MISC (7) |
| ■ Youth (7) | ■ Environment (6) |
| ■ Housing (6) | ■ Politics (6) |
| ■ Health (5) | ■ International Community (5) |
| ■ Mental Health (5) | ■ Relationship (5) |
| ■ Interfaith (4) | ■ Literacy (4) |
| ■ Racial Issues (4) | ■ Safety (4) |
| ■ Death (3) | ■ Women (3) |
| ■ LGBTQ+ (2) | ■ UUC Expansion (2) |
| ■ Arts (1) | ■ Prison (1) |
| ■ Seasonal (1) | |

Strengths/Gifts



Fears/Concerns



- Commitment (19)
- Time (16)
- Inklusivity (12)
- Resources (12)
- Argumentative (7)
- Leadership (7)
- Ignorance (6)
- MISC (5)
- ChangeAverse (4)
- Ego (4)
- Safety (3)
- Creativity (1)