

HUUF Congregational Survey and RESPONSES 2018

We want to hear from YOU! The Ministerial Search Committee needs everyone's input to find ministerial candidates that best fit our congregation. This survey is confidential and anonymous. It takes 5- 10 minutes. Please note that we seek a response from *everyone*, not just one per household. You can find this same survey online, linked from the HUUF website. ***Please conduct the survey online if you are able!*** Otherwise fill out this paper survey and return it at the collection box in the Fellowship foyer or by mailing it to: P.O. Box 506, Bayside, CA 95524. ***Thank you for your input!***

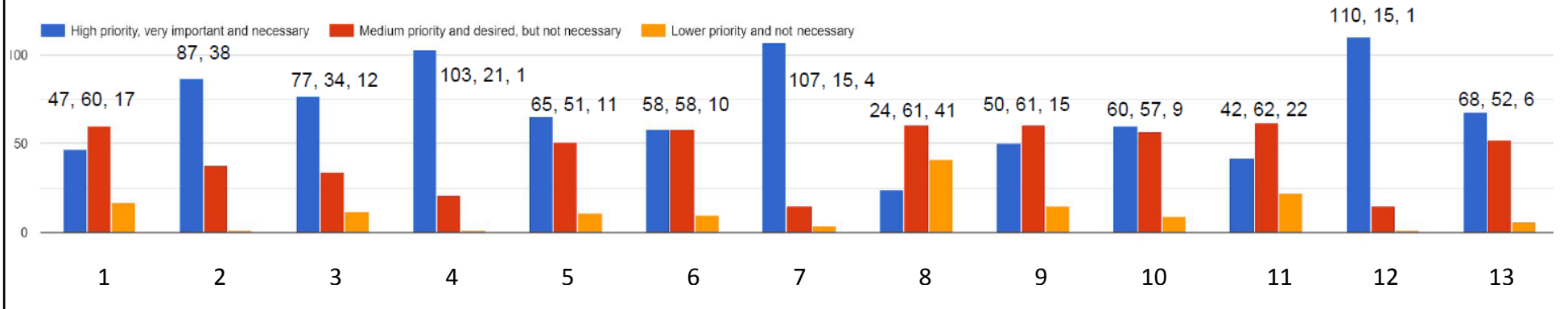
1. Our new minister should be capable of and devote time and attention to . . .

	High priority, very important and necessary	Medium priority and desired, but not necessary	Lower priority and not necessary
Assuring efficient and effective Fellowship administration			
Pastoral care for and counseling individuals			
Creating a sense of awe and wonder in Sunday services			
Intellectual leadership: stimulating & challenging the congregation			
Encouraging congregational social justice programs			
Encouraging volunteers and developing lay leadership			
Fostering a sense of fellowship and community within the Fellowship			
Guiding/facilitating committee work			
Leading and guiding the Fellowship staff			
Offering stimulating adult enrichment programs			
Participating in religious education for children and youth			
Presenting stimulating and challenging Sunday services			
Providing inspiring & visible leadership in community beyond the Fellowship			

Other:

RESPONSES: Top priorities of respondents are “Presenting stimulating and challenging Sunday services,” “Fostering a sense of fellowship and community within the Fellowship,” and “Intellectual leadership: stimulating & challenging the congregation.” Along with these top three priorities, respondents over the age of 55 also prioritize “Pastoral care for and counseling individuals” while those under the age of 55 add “Creating a sense of awe and wonder in Sunday services.” See chart below.

Our new minister should be capable of and devote time and attention to . . .



1 - Assuring efficient and effective Fellowship administration

2 - Pastoral care for and counseling individuals

3 - Creating a sense of awe and wonder in Sunday services

4 - Intellectual leadership: stimulating & challenging the congregation

5 - Encouraging congregational social justice programs

6 - Encouraging volunteers and developing lay Leadership

7 - Fostering a sense of fellowship and community within the Fellowship

8 - Guiding/facilitating committee work

9 - Leading and guiding the Fellowship staff

10 - Offering stimulating adult enrichment programs

11 - Participating in religious education for children and youth

12 - Presenting stimulating and challenging Sunday services

13 - Providing inspiring & visible leadership in community beyond the Fellowship

2. Our current minister leads two Sunday services each month. Would you like a new minister to:

a. Do the same

b. Lead more Sunday services

c. Lead fewer Sunday services

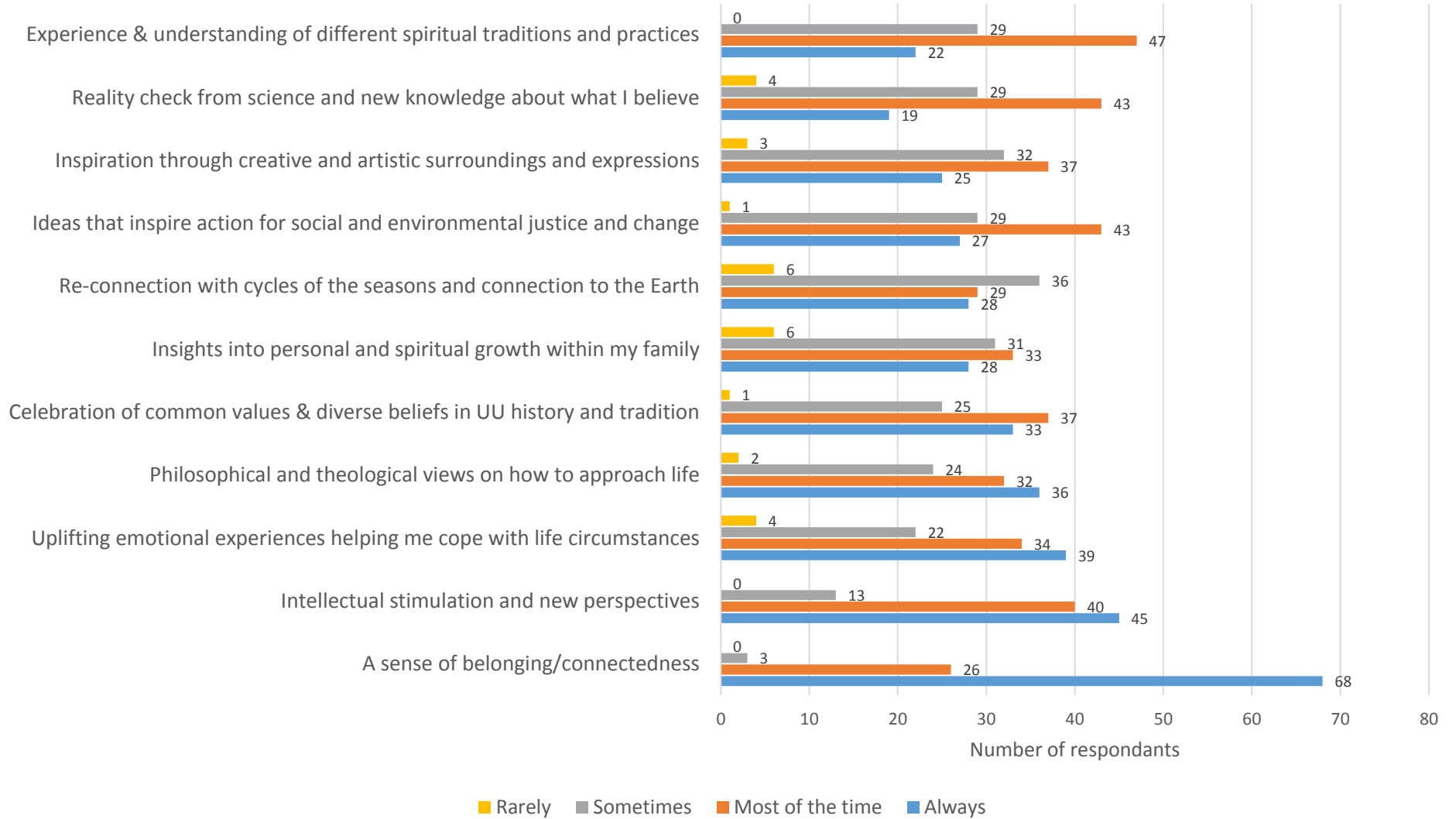
RESPONSES: The overwhelming majority (81%) feel that the new minister should “do the same.” Another 17% feel s/he should “lead more.”

3. Please rate which aspects of Sunday worship services are most *important* and *meaningful* to you. Would you like the services to provide you with . . .

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Rarely
A sense of belonging/connectedness				
Celebration of common values & diverse beliefs in UU history and tradition				
Intellectual stimulation and new perspectives				
Experience & understanding of different spiritual traditions and practices				
Ideas that inspire action for social and environmental justice and change				
Uplifting emotional experiences helping me cope with life circumstances				
Insights into personal and spiritual growth within my family				
Philosophical and theological views on how to approach life				
Reality check from science and new knowledge about what I believe				
Re-connection with cycles of the seasons and connection to the Earth				
Inspiration through creative and artistic surroundings and expressions				

RESPONSES: The aspects of Sunday services that respondents most want ‘Always’ are “A sense of belonging/connectedness” (68) and “Intellectual stimulation and new perspectives” (45). Other aspects preferred ‘Always’ or ‘Most of the time’ are “Uplifting emotional experiences helping me cope with life circumstances” and “Philosophical and theological views on how to approach life.” The chart below shows all responses. It is important to note that a response below ‘Always’ doesn’t indicate less of an enthusiasm for a topic, but may be an indication that certain aspects of Sunday service are best suited to an occasional focus as opposed to a weekly one. For example the high number of ‘Sometimes’ responses for “Re-connection with cycles of the seasons and connection to the Earth” (36). See chart below.

Please rate which aspects of Sunday worship services are most important and meaningful to you. You would like the services to provide . . .



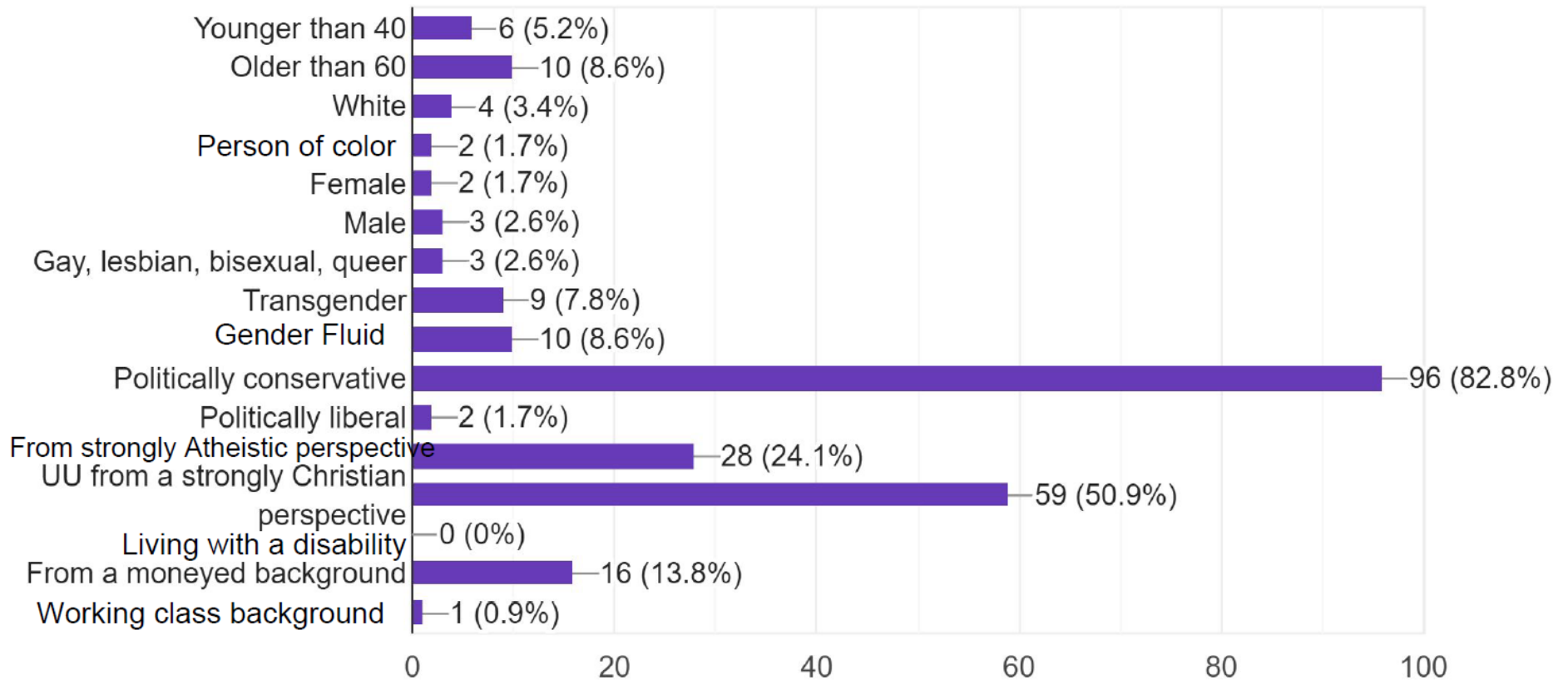
4. The UUA General Assembly has affirmed a policy that ministerial selection procedures take place without discrimination due to race, color, disability, sex, affectational or sexual orientation, age, or national origin. However, it is important to all involved that the congregation and minister feel comfortable with each other. Which of the following characteristics, if any, might you feel uncomfortable with in a new minister? Please circle any that apply:

- a. Younger than 40
- b. Older than 60
- c. White
- d. A person of color/member of historically marginalized ethnic/cultural group
- e. Female
- f. Male
- g. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer
- h. Transgender
- i. Gender fluid (does not identify as one)
- j. Politically conservative
- k. Politically liberal
- l. UU from a strongly Atheistic perspective
- m. UU from a strongly Christian perspective
- n. Living with a disability
- o. From a moneyed background
- p. From a working class background

RESPONSES: A majority of respondents (83%) feel uncomfortable with a politically conservative minister. Another 51% feel uncomfortable with a minister who is “UU from a strongly Christian perspective” and 24% feel uncomfortable with a “UU from a strongly Atheistic perspective”. As one respondent noted in comments, it is not the Christian or the Atheistic perspective that is the issue but the ‘strongly’ aspect that is. See chart below.

Which of the following characteristics, if any, might you feel uncomfortable with in a new minister? Please check any that apply:

116 responses



5. If you have other views you'd like to share regarding the selection of a new minister, please share here: _____(condensing)_____

ABOUT YOU AND US

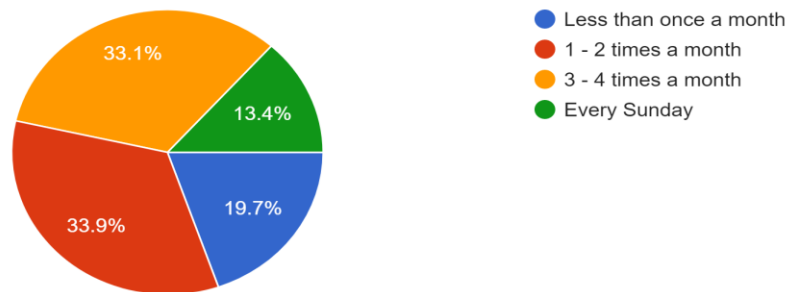
6. Over the last year, how many Sundays a month do you typically attend services? Circle one:

- a. Less than once a month
- b. 1 - 2 times a month
- c. 3 - 4 times a month
- d. Every Sunday

RESPONSES:

Over the last year, how many Sundays a month do you typically attend services? Check one:

127 responses



7. How long have you attended services of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship? Circle one:

a. Less than a year
d. 6 to 10 years

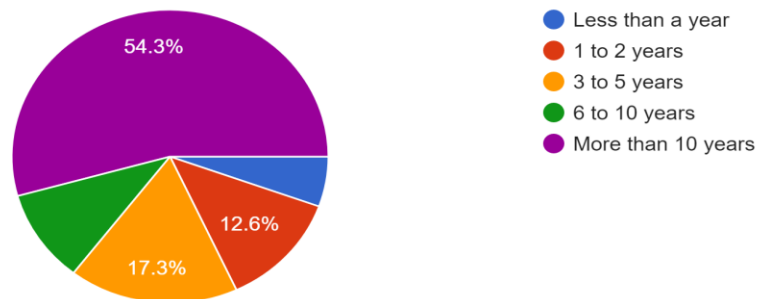
b. 1 to 2 years
e. More than 10 years

c. 3 to 5 years

RESPONSES

How long have you attended services of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship? Check one:

127 responses



8. Are you a member? a. Yes b. No

RESPONSES: Yes 111, No 16.

9. Do you make an annual pledge? a. Yes, regularly b. Sometimes c. No

RESPONSES: Yes 101 (80%), Sometimes 7 (5%) and No 19 (15%)

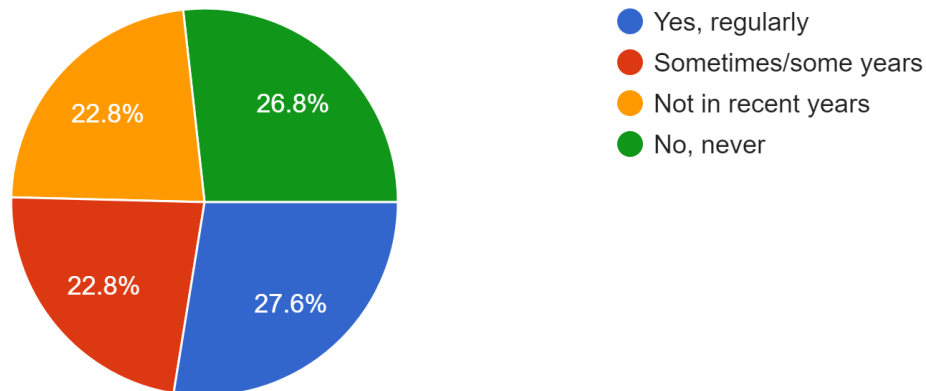
10. Have you ever taken on what you consider an active leadership role at HUUF? Circle one:

a. Yes, regularly b. Sometimes/some years c. Not in recent years d. No, never

RESPONSES: Those who have taken on a leadership role either 'Yes, regularly' or 'Sometimes/some years' = 64, or 50%.

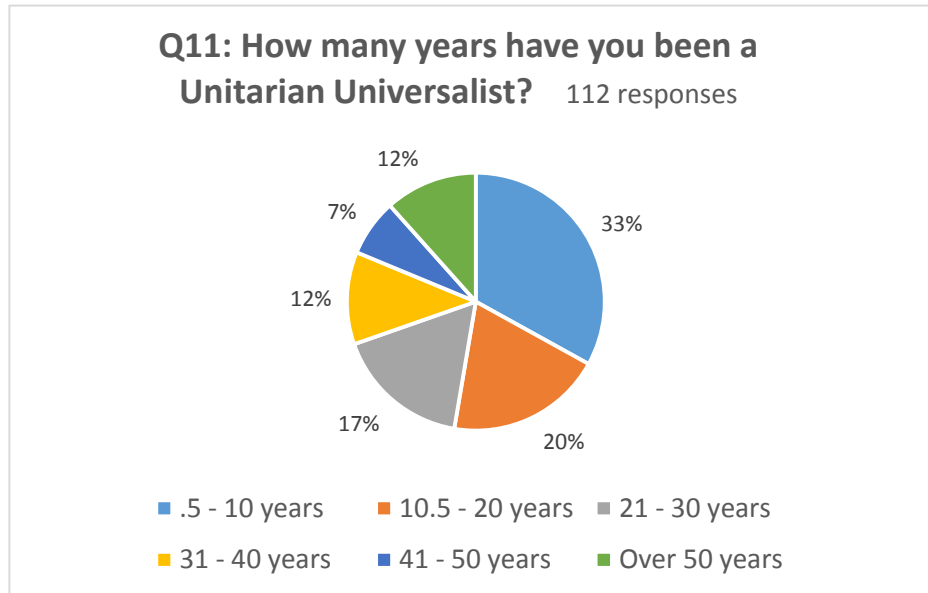
Have you ever taken on what you consider an active leadership role at HUUF? Check one:

127 responses



11. How many years have you been a Unitarian Universalist?

RESPONSES:

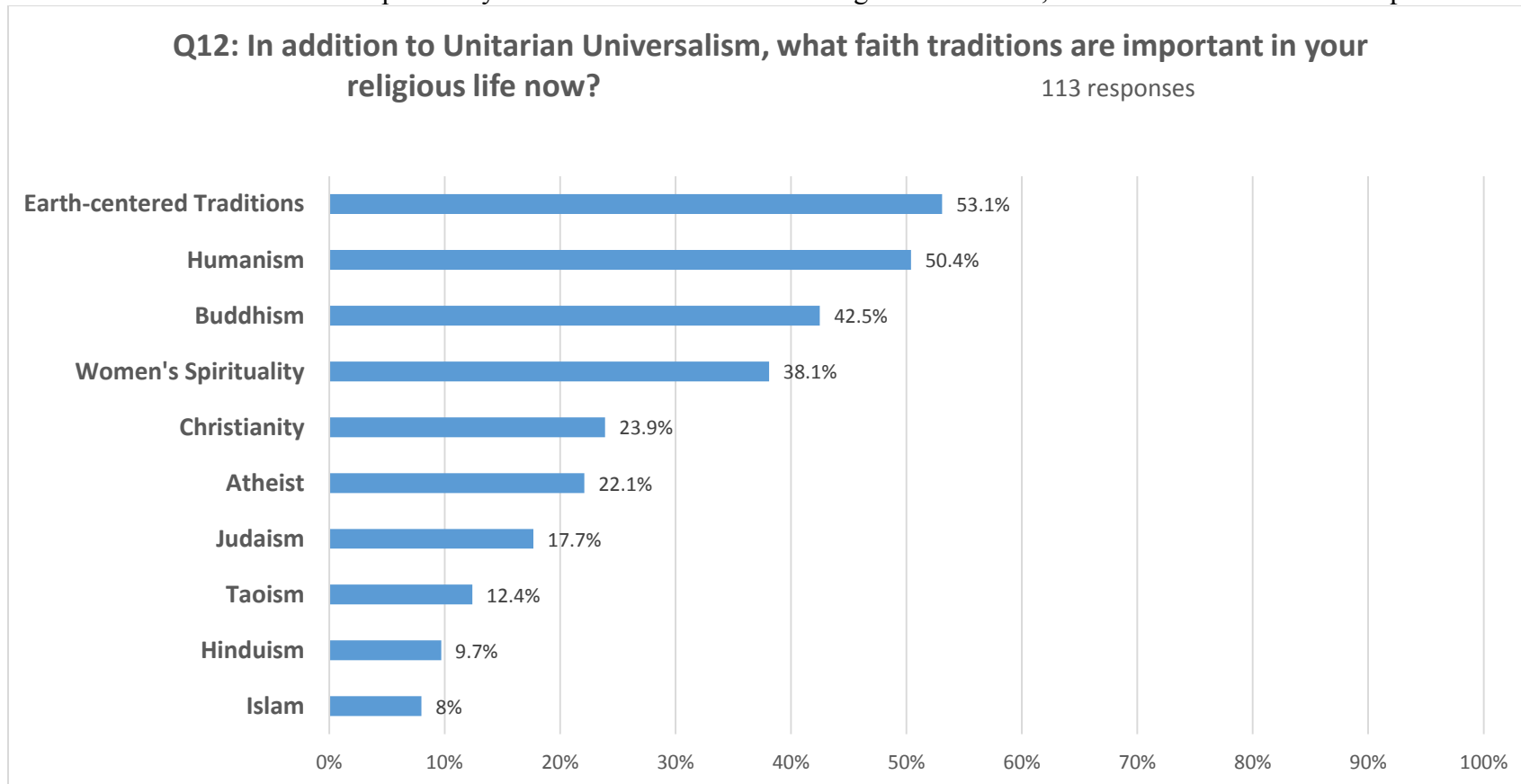


Responses	Years	Percent Responses
15	.5 - 2	13%
12	2.5 - 5	11%
10	5.5 - 10	9%
22	10.5 - 20	20%
19	21 - 30	17%
13	31 - 40	12%
8	41 - 50	7%
13	Over 50	12%

12. In addition to Unitarian Universalism, what faith traditions are important in your religious life now? Circle *all* that apply:

- a. Buddhism
- b. Islam
- c. Hinduism
- d. Judaism
- e. Earth-centered Traditions
- f. Taoism
- g. Christianity
- h. Humanism
- i. Women's Spirituality
- j. Atheist

RESPONSES: A majority of respondents say that Earth-centered Traditions (53%) and Humanism (50%) are important in their religious lives now. Buddhism and Women's Spirituality are the next most common religious influences, with 43% and 38% of the responses. See chart below.



13. What is your current gender identity? Circle one:

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Transgender

d. Queer

e. Other _____

RESPONSES: The majority of survey respondents were female (74%) and 21% were male. Three people identified as queer and no one as transgender.

14. What is your current sexual orientation? Circle one:

a. Bisexual

d. Gay

g. Questioning

b. Lesbian

e. Homosexual

h. Other _____

c. Heterosexual

f. Queer

RESPONSES: 75% of respondents are heterosexual, 11% are bisexual and 8% are lesbian. Of the remaining 6%, two people are queer and individuals wrote in various answers including “me,” “questioning,” “pansexual,” and “too old to matter!”

15. What is your age bracket? Circle one:

a. Under 16

d. 36-45

g. 66-75

b. 17-25

e. 46-55

h. 76 and over

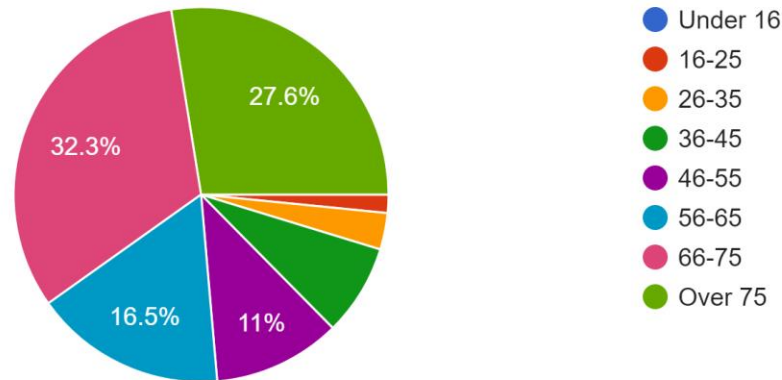
c. 26-35

f. 56-65

RESPONSES:

What is your age bracket? Check one:

127 responses



16. Do you have children age 18 or under in your household?

- a. Yes b. No

RESPONSES: 99 respondents do not have children in the household, while 24 do. No respondents over the age of 55 had children in the household, but 83% of respondents under 55 did.

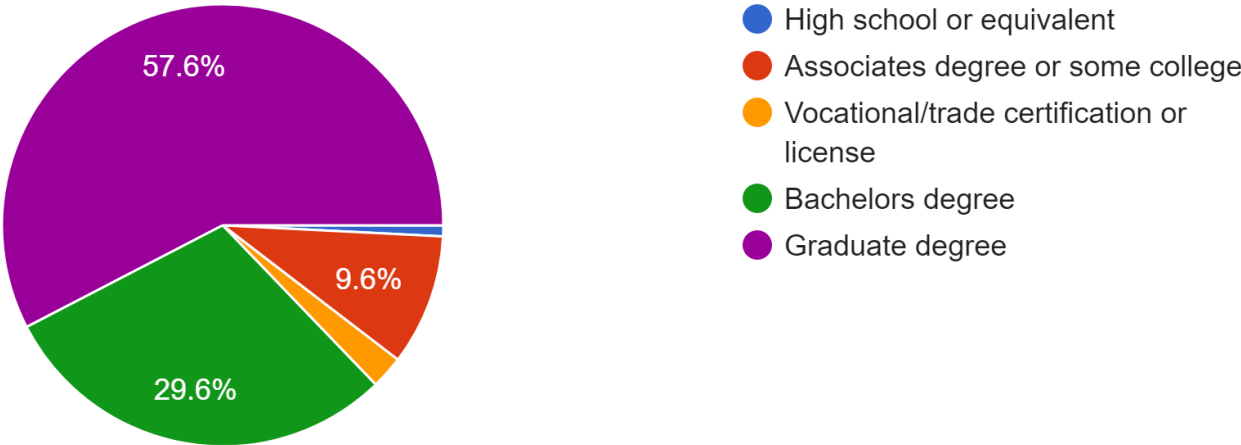
17. What is the highest education/training level you have completed? Circle one:

- a. High school or equivalent d. Bachelors degree
b. Associates degree or some college e. Graduate degree
c. Vocational/trade certification or license

RESPONSES: HUUF is a highly educated congregation. 109 respondents have either a bachelors or graduate degree. See chart below.

What is the highest education/training level you have completed? Check one:

125 responses



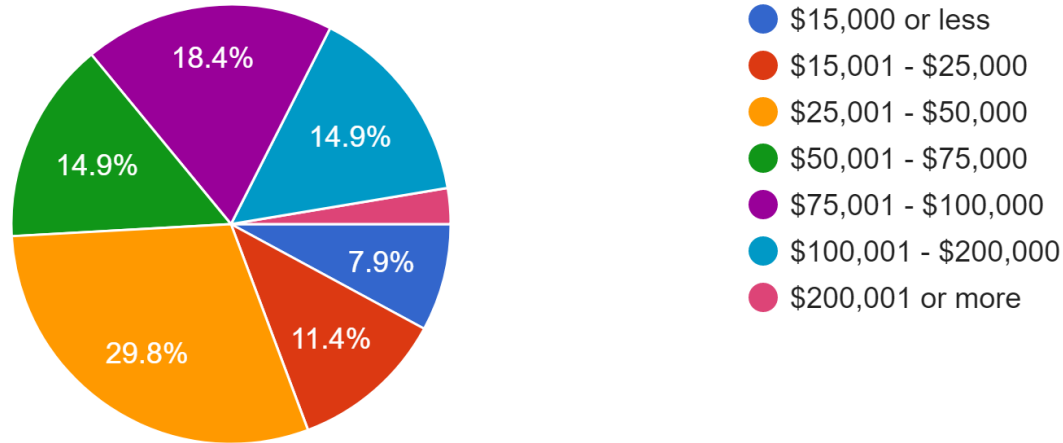
18. What was your total gross family/household income before taxes last year? Circle one:

- a. Less than \$15,000
- b. \$15,001 - \$25,000
- c. \$25,001 - \$50,000
- d. 50,001 - \$75,000
- e. \$75,001 - \$100,000
- f. \$100,001 - \$200,000
- g. \$200,001 or more

RESPONSES: Despite the high level of education, 52% of the congregation is living off less than \$50,000 annual income. Only 20 respondents make over \$100,000 a year. See chart below.

18. What was your total gross family/household income before taxes last year? Check one:

114 responses



Thank you for your time in filling out this survey. Every survey is a vital part of the ministerial search process because the information helps us know which minister suits our members; and, helps potential ministers know if we are the right congregation for them.