

Summary of Name Change Survey Results 4/2/19

There were a total of 71 respondents to the survey.

1. Are you open to the possibility of changing the name of the congregation?

(70 People answered this question.)

Yes: 91.43%

No: 8.57%

2. Why or Why not?

A. Reasons given for not changing the name were:

- The name feels comforting
- The name should not be changed due to its long history
- It is divisive, and there are other issues that should be addressed

Sample comments:

- “I started attending services at UUCR when I was seeking a place of worship, and spirituality. The name is reflective of that, if we’re not a "church" I am not certain I would attend. It is restorative to me to be in this space.”
- “I feel comfortable coming to and supporting Restoration because it is a church.”
- “It is a place of worship that is approaching 200 years in existence. It was, is, and should remain as it was founded.”

B. Reasons given in support of changing the name fell into six broad categories.

1. The current name is not reflective of who we are as a congregation or what we stand for.

Sample Comments:

- “While the current name may somewhat reflect our unique UU history and/or a lower case sense of restoration (wholeness), it does not accurately capture us, our multiculturalism, our justice work, our identity as a welcoming community, or our empathy/compassion. Nor does it promote/extend who we are to our immediate community, our city, or even our UU-ness.”
- “Our name should better express our current mission/vision, not merely our historic one.”
- “Needs updating to reflect congregation.”
- “I want the words Love and Community in the name. I would like the name to reflect that we are a community of love and acceptance.”

2. The current name is not inclusive and welcoming to people of all faith traditions.

Sample comments:

- “I feel that the current name is not inclusive of other faiths and/or our mission.”
- “The name could attract a broader community.”
- “Current name is outdated & not welcoming to people of all backgrounds.”
- “It may open the door to other who might want to join with us.”
- “I agree that the name does not really capture who we are and may actually inhibit new people from trying us out.”

3. Reservations about the word “church”

Sample comments:

- “I am uncomfortable with the word ‘church’”.
- “I would like to change the word ‘church.’”
- “I’d prefer not calling ourselves a church.”
- “I always hesitate to say Church when I describe the congregation. Too many negative connections to the word church for me and many of my friends.”
- “The current name is misleading, particularly the word church. This is almost universally understood to mean Christian, which is a barrier for many and which may be reducing our ability to attract more theological diversity.”

4. Reservations about the word “Restoration”

Sample comments:

- “Restoration is a quaint anachronism, rarely understood by potential newcomers.”
- “The word "Restoration" has unsettling influence for me.”
- “To me, the "Restoration" part of our name doesn't convey a clear meaning, and thus doesn't help people understand what we're about. While the word has some sentimental value even to me after all these years, I'm ready to part with it.”
- “I have always been bothered by the "Restoration" part of the name. When it was explained what it meant (at least originally), I had to shudder.”
- “Eliminate "Restoration" which has Christian salvation connotations.”

5. Change is part of the evolving role of a congregation

Sample comments:

- “Being open to change is part of the evolving role the church has and will play in people's faith journey and in our society.”
- “It’s in our DNA to re-examine ourselves.”
- “The time is right - if maybe over-due!”
- “Let's move into the future with an identity that is vibrant and energetic.”
- “I would be interested in considering a name change as part of a long range plan to identify goals for the congregation.”

6. The current name is cumbersome/too long.

Sample comments:

- “The name is cumbersome and doesn't reflect the philosophy of the present day church.”
- “The name is too long.”
- “Brevity is welcome.”

C. Several people made comments of this general sentiment: “I have no strong feelings one way or the other, but I'll support those who do have an issue with the present name.”

3. Suggested names

Approximately 40 new names were suggested.