

What keeps you going here?	Motivations that brought you to UCV	Challenges, Drawbacks	The Future
The diversity of the members and activities. Especially the forums. They are well-presented and thought-provoking.	The UCV sign on Oak St. The title of the homily... The guest speaker discussing his own Islamic philosophy. I was impressed and have continued to be ever since. The openness and non-judgement - I love it.	For various reasons I have found inclusion for my self difficult. I will try harder in the future.	More of what has been happening over the past 6 years since I have been attending.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ritual, music, social justice Family-friendly! We feel welcome here w/ our young kids. 	Shared community of values and beliefs. Wanted some "spiritual life" for our kids. Used to belong to a Unitarian Church in another city and we sought the same community here.	Lack of ethnic/racial diversity	We are excited about the kids program!
Shared beliefs in a religion I admire, trust, and which inspires me. Fine people, many of whom generously serve & give of their means	A strong congregation with a good history of ministry, social justice, and environmental work. Beautiful buildings. Personal need for a community of shared values. Being in an intergenerational, physical affective & fun religious community.	Conflict/turnover in CYRE program/DREs; small cadre of people who serve and give disproportionately - more people should be giving more; need more contemporary worship formats/space	Professional ministry serving broader range of constituencies. 2 Ministries, 1 for who we are, 1 for young adults. An event programmer to make better use of our space. More influence in the broader world.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curating of art, music, thoughtful contemplation, song, caring, celebration, spiritual upliftment into 1 hour of week Continuity, structure, and moments of beauty guaranteed each week Chalice choir and pantheon of musicians Diversity of sermon and Bringing my mother-in-law, Joyce A growing affection for people I've connected with in a meaningful way and the community at large 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George W. Bush getting voted in a second time, with even higher percentage of the popular vote. Hopeless, jaded sadness that needed a new anchor Nostalgia for a community structure that childhood of church-going provided - even though I didn't want to be an Joyce The opportunity to participate in the Spirit Play program at the church school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of diversity in congregation Effort but little success in improving the children's program, especially the childcare room Competing priorities within the congregation, e.g., "don't let your children distract the musicians" vs. "truly welcoming families w/ young" The difficulty of getting below the surface with the people with whom I do projects - relationship seem to be project-based Worship, ethical action, education, artistic expression... to share my spiritual journey feels like swimming upstream against the ethos of this Lack of bulletin & and other forums for outside information Distance from church precluding involvement in programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much more vibrant, joyful, structured children's program (especially childcare room) More opportunities for children to be children in our midsts (i.e., giant foam blocks at center of Hewitt Building, adults building tower with kids during church lunch) I said this year I would bring warmth and honest openness to this community. I look forward to seeing the new vision statement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir/community and personal support Being with people with like-minded ideas Church services 	Extended family program, children's program, community, values and worship		More connection w/ other UU churches
Current events that affect our lives (and the music)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The death of our daughter at the age of 1 and 1/2 in 1963 The values and sharing of ideas The Environment Committee More great ideas 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and renovate UCV so as to be energy self-sufficient - our solar location is very good and we are not using it to its potential Remove the parking lot and green this area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sundays - tranquil space in community Music Intellectual stimulation Social interaction Possibility, often realized, of intimate, respectful conversation about core issues in my life, my city, my country and my earth Hope - I gain hope & optimism Music! Fellowship! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for community of spiritually and socially-active peers Religious education for my family Broad, philosophical, thoughtful, contemplative sermons 	Over-commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extension of this community into the larger community - illuminating our values for us and others. The strengthening of our values and putting them into action in the city.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends Sharing good work Sermons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatives in Ontario are Unitarian Sunday school for my children The liberal ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity in the congregation - it would be great to have more people of different faiths/backgrounds/political leanings... are we really open to all views, or just left-wing ones? 	There is not much future - I am 94 years old. Sharing with my daughter-in-law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Prayer is Powerful" - what is our prayer? Our hymns and music All the choice of activities, classes, gardens, rituals, celebrations, opportunities and accomplishments Deep friendship Environmental and social justice 	I was raised Unitarian, so when my family formed and my children were born I came "home". I need this community of progressive, kind, strong people of all ages.	Ministry and our part in it. Supporting the young and old as I was supported... a vibrant community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulating words and action Friendship through cooperation Beauty, babies, good living & dying Ecology, inter-dependence... flowering & dying together Celebrating our health and the health of our city, bio-region, earth

Community, shared spiritual views, music, active participation in broader society, spontaneity	This is out "family church"; I first came before I was old enough to have an opinion.	My own employment situation makes me reluctant to commit to participating as much as I would like.	Fostering relationships with non-member neighbours
UCV is it - an open church, individualistic and universal	An open church	More non-English speaking members; lack of simultaneous service interpretation as in UN	UCV will grow, shine, change, harvest and achieve, becoming a universal treasure
To learn more - to always keep learning and searching	I was motivated to connect with my family's faith community and see what guided/lead their search for spirituality	The challenge is my own barrier to staying in any community (not just here)	The future, I hope, holds a community that I can teach, by example or lesson, about forming roots and focusing on common community goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create involvement • Friends made here • Music • Steven's sermons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner church • Seeking spiritual home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former husband's anti-church sentiments • Lack of ritual/pageantry compared to Christ Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A beacon of environmentally sustainable buildings • A gathering place to mount social justice campaigns • 1st class services, musical experiences • Chairs rather than pews to allow more movement • Be known as a place where our vulnerable and elderly are cared • I am pretty content with what happens here • Would like my partner to find a way to thrive here as he once did • I hope to be more involved in social justice and refugee support • Keep bringing inspiring folks into the services & events • Would like a Not just people in the here and now, we are living values that make this place a space of growth and readiness for all that we are & challenges the Unitarian fabric
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I love the music, I am in the choir and have been for 40 years • The artistic community here is impressive • Love the lack of rigidity and dogma in the services • A chance for self-expression and creativity <p>The many activities here connecting beauty of word, thought & sound to spirit and justice help individuals realize something no other place does - allowing people to be, to do (be a novice, do what they can), and see fine acts of self shine out. People find their Connections with certain members; the quality of the ministry; the active dedication of committee members toward the causes the church supports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanted a like-minded community outside of work and single-interest groups • Had been inspired by a few Unitarians over the years • Brought our kids to church school - made a big impression on them • Love the times we went to "Wilderness" when we joined • To be with someone special • To listen to a 15-min. concert • To learn what it was to have a spiritual life • To find I was already involved in that • To be with people open to diverse thought, beauty in the same place <p>Its secular environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I live a half-hour drive away - 2x a week for choir is about all I want to take on because of the driving • My husband more or less dropped out, this is sad for me - I do some things on my own, but not ready for all <p>The place takes upkeep. We need to love taking care of this place.</p> <p>That there is always the pushback to odd-sounding or new ideas to do now jibe with our preconceived ideas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts toward gaining more insight to the forces governing our world so that we can devise more realistic actions to confront them; and achieve broader awareness of that these actions (revolutionary) are necessary for the survival of all A place to come and just be me... no job, no appeals, no volunteering requests. No cliques or "in" groups <p>If the future means forever, that is forever</p>
Excellent sermons; friendly welcome; outstanding music and musicians; a few small groups doing amazing work with refugees, justice issues, an outstanding library, healthy lunches, the serendipity of loving "grace encounters" with different members at Great sermons, nice people, beautiful garden; everyone I can talk to; everything I can touch	<p>Dissatisfaction w/ other denominations; not wanting to become a "none of the above" or an absentee</p> <p>I just need a place like this UCV - one and only choice for me</p> <p>Community of like minds; open to lifestyles such as refugees & LGBT; marriages of all types; friends and family; fabulous events and gatherings</p>	<p>So many groups, so many activities - too many to easily join in; entries and exits from responsibilities and group memberships is challenging; getting to find, and learn about, "my" group or my home constituency; a bit of the "old guard" knowing more</p> <p>A little bit of quiet</p> <p>Aging congregation - fewer new folks</p>	<p>More children; stable building & congregation; interested in sustainability... education for children, environment of BC, community (seniors, refugees)</p>
Steven; children's program; principles	Values/principles; Steven; Children's program	Not that inclusive to new members, especially those that may be more introverted. If you are extroverted and very involved you probably do better. For shy people it is very difficult, as people rarely start up conversation or seem welcoming... by this I mean in	A buddy system where older members connect with new ones to help them navigate the church. Maintain contact over a period of a few months to help with integration and to stay connected; Concerned about Steven leaving - how to replace him?

Nurturing community; a community that helps me tackle the big questions, experiences of grief, joy; a place to learn; a place that offers opportunity for meaningful service and that supports me in that kind of service Messy church and R.E.; music, arts; thought-provoking sermons; community	Search for community; search for support; opportunities to help	Fear of risks - taking on roles that I am not comfortable with; fear of losing touch with the community	More of the same; emphasis on young families building the church; when I retire I would like to be more involved in a committee
My children. They love this community and I love that this group helps me teach my children that they are a part of a larger universe, but not its center	Search for community; search for meaning (for us and the kids); search for inspiration/new ideas	Hard for newcomers to break in to long-established groups; distance - the people we meet here don't live nearby; Mixed messages regarding kids... integral to the community or best out of the way?; cost... suggested pledge... fundraising lunches and other Its hard to commit to being anywhere week after week. How can we make participation a priority and enlarge the congregation so that even with sporadic attendance, there is always a wealth of people?	Welcoming to all ages, dynamic I hope the future congregation is vibrant and diverse. We need all generations and cultural groups to create a community that can be sustainable and welcoming in our very young and immigrant-rich city
I build relationships slowly but surely. Every week the good things get deeper carved	It seemed open-hearted when I came to a wedding in 1967 and I discovered I need not 'check my brains at the door' and there was visual/audio abundance	We're not always as open-hearted as I thought at first	Build your own 'theology' - guided in an individual way, then come together. What are the questions? More politics, food, song, dance, theatre, environmental and social action
I've found my tribe! Sense of meaning; I enjoy working with, talking to, and sharing experiences with a diverse group of people; Interesting seeing others' points of view, ideas - made a wonderful group of friends of all ages; stimulating services Congregation's involvement with social justice, environment, refugees with a meaningful spiritual quest and living that faith actively, in the real world	Wanted RE for my children; meet like-minded liberal people for friendship & shared goals; spiritual quest; finding meaning; shared worship; interesting and inspiring sermons Quest for a spiritually meaningful place; found it through friends	Nope, I'm good! Fearfulness seems to be taking over the Western world and people seem to retreat into safety/what is perceived as safety/conservatism, and we are and should stay as an avant garde spiritual place where activism is encouraged More people need to volunteer as a way of learning to share and give, thus lightening the load for all	More of the same, I hope! Reach out to other faiths; Reach out and work spiritually with the indigenous community; continue the positive activities
Music, variety of services, lunches	The community and inspiration		BE & become; more meditation, more spiritual formation
Wonderful sermons (thoughtful, compassionate, erudite, funny); wonderful music; lunch together - good way of meeting new people; interesting group with worthwhile causes, e.g., refugee committee	Searching for an undogmatic religion I was hooked when the first time I came, Robert Fulgham was sitting on the steps playing his guitar)	Existing in an area with many non-caucasian residents Unwillingness of enough people to participate in helping with programs	An overflowing congregation with a huge number of children in church school; an extension of Steven's tenure!
Same as my motivations	A loving fellowship; social justice activities; spiritual growth (my spouse has recently passed)	Need to develop my tolerance for differing views; want a clear support for a loving afterlife, FAITH	Want faith in the present; want faith for an afterlife and my motivations; want faith to get through the dying process
Familiarity; interesting sermon topics	Looking for a non-scripturally based church	Church's congregation is aging and not growing	More young people; exciting events sponsored by the church
At the present time it is the minister, mostly. When he was on sabbatical the program committee did a great job.	Sunday is a special day when I like to go to church. Good sermons, good music. My family went to church	UCV doesn't 'adventure' enough to the larger community	In 10 years, a congregation that includes working people, retired, and elderly - a better balance than we have today; An inspiring minister able to speak with knowledge on a wide range of topics

"We more often need to be reminded than instructed" - Samuel Johnson. Spiritual friendships	Search for inclusive religious space (no dogma, no hierarchy)	Pervasive consumerism/individualism	Openness to life as it is happening (responsive vs. rigid)
A sense of community and welcome and of cultural kinship	Desire for a sense of community with shared values and tolerance to differences	I am too new to this congregation to answer this or 'the future'	
Community - belonging; teachings for life; people	Friend's referral. A major loss in my life	How to reach a wider audience/membership from all walks of life	Continuing with outreach to the wider community; find a new minister who can inspire and comfort
This is it. This is the place where I can think, meditate, pray, listen, learn and 'grow' in a spiritual sense. It has become a pillar in my life	The search for my religion. The platform for my spiritual development	The distance from my home - but while I am healthy that's not too onerous; I am by nature shy at best and anti-social at worst (not good Unitarian material)	I deeply appreciate Steven's efforts as a minister and sincerely hope we can find his equal as a replacement; I'm sorry that I have returned too late in the "new year" for A.R.E. theology class. I hope these are offered again in the new calendar year
What motivated me initially, except RE as my children are all adults and grandchildren mostly live far away	A long time ago! Openness to the wisdom of all faiths; Welcoming all - diversity; social justice; RE program; challenging sermons; spiritual place	To involve more young families; time and too many competing demands on time; soccer, hockey, homework, family time	Continue community involvement re: social justice, environment, refugees, poverty; continue to be a welcoming place, a spiritual place for all; continue to challenge entrenched ideas that are no longer supported by science or reality; outreach - UBC, World situation is concerning. We need to keep our ears and eyes open
The community & chance to be involved	The openness of belief and community	Poverty in so many areas & greedy selfish governments	
Friends, a feeling of responsibility, work that is satisfying, the sense of possibility, music, long connection, habit	I came back when my daughter was young to give her some spiritual/religious grounding. She stopped attending before her teens, I still come	I understand that mental health is a personal passion for Rev. Epperson, however I stopped coming to services because it was too much and I didn't agree with all his opinions. I felt my difference of opinion was not welcome. I am happy with recent services Challenges - growing in numbers, commitment and depth, inter-generational community	I would like to see a richer ARE program. I know class was canceled due to low registration BUT this could have been sent by email to everyone to remind them we need to be more computer friendly. We need to engage younger adults on ground they are adept at A vibrant, engaged community with depth and outward orientation
Commitment so community & social justice action; humanist orientation; music, connection; part of broader UU movement	Curiosity, exploration		
Our shared principles; our shared celebration, especially through soup; the UU call to love & justice; our beautiful worship and meeting spaces	Need for spiritual solace; desire for ethical commitments; a memorial service	Fragmented efforts, our diversity pulls us in too many directions; Lack of generous spirit financially (drink less coffee, give more to UU/work)	Stronger connection w/ other Uus in Canada and worldwide; Allies with aboriginal people, environmentalists; Other faith communities and even conservatives; intergenerational focus
Important for my children; strength in numbers; community gathering events; opportunities to make a difference; variety of service on Sundays	Wanting to make a difference in the community; be with a community that shared the same priorities, beliefs	Busy schedule, already tired; can be challenging getting the kids up and ready	Let the children learn they can make a difference (i.e., well project last year); Live your priorities individually, in committee and as a group; bring more awareness into the community at large (that this church exists); bring hope into a world that is feeling hopelessness Social engagement (UU Canada, social justice); youth; outward-focused; inclusive/diverse; commitment; intergenerational
Inspiration, centering for week ahead; meditation space; welcoming, approachable and accepting of other faiths; shared principles	Shared philosophy; search for community; need for worship center; children	Outside demands on time for young families	

Faith	Acceptance, kindness	Stubbornness from outsiders	Peace
I love the music, the varied services, Stephen's guidance. The space. The trees out the windows. The meditation. The people. The freedom to define and discover my own beliefs in line with Unitarian principles I appreciate the intellectual challenge. That's what brought me here so many years ago... I like being with people with whom I share values.	Got married here in 1995. Came back during hard times, seeking spiritual support and guidance. Came back again about 10 years ago seeking a spiritual community. Found what I was seeking. I always enjoy the children's story. I love the music and the flowers up front.	The aging congregation. Youth not as involved as they could be. A certain rigidity. It can feel as if there are strict rules, a protocol that I don't know that holds me back. People are attached to the way things are. Remember, you asked! At the top of each service there is a comment/request "please refrain from conversing" - I presume to establish a quiet, contemplative atmosphere... and then, minutes into the service, we are instructed to "greet your Getting trapped in image; Ways for all to unfold their deeping understanding & to see things through our blind spots to our deeper knowing/being	I love the order of services, each part leading up to the sermon and the sermon itself, but I wonder if we need to pull that apart a bit so there is more flexibility in that young people can create an OoS that speaks to them. It might be good for all of us to experience the Financial planning ahead for renovations and repairs... gardening of the containers outside could be organized somehow? Deepening our personal spirituality & understanding that UCV brings to the community
The lack of dogma & the openness to our spiritual nature; the breadth and depth of the congregation & the offerings of activities of sharing, communing and socializing	To add Jesus to my spiritual process of Buddhist meditation; searching for the church that focuses on the heart, compassion and unfolding and sharing of our true nature	Boredom, sloth!	
Love, the source of life; freedom, the sense of...; a desire for peace, equanimity	Meditation, curiosity, a longing for community and like-mindedness		
My friends attend and I enjoy doing things with them; I like thinking about 'big' concepts as a respite from the daily grind; the music; the opportunity to create circle dance, labyrinths, art	Search for community of like-minded seekers; the music soothes my soul; The crazy, materialistic world that didn't make sense to me; filling a void of loss	I stall on using the word "church" and know people who either refuse outright to come, or make assumptions regarding being "holy rollers", evangelical, etc.	Outreach to be self-sufficient enough to allow us to bridge social/environmental outreach into the community; sustainability in financial, physical, plant and human resources; more music and art
Community, beauty, peace	Seeking community	Lack of appreciation for volunteers, poor direction by leaders	More emphasis on spiritual growth, changing our name to Unitarian Community of Vancouver
Community (sense of); music - choir is fantastic; sermons - Steven is awesome!; enviro/SJ committees; lunches	Crisis and a need for spiritual solace; this is the only non-Christian left-leaning 'Church' I knew of - lefty but not too new-agey; noble history of founding (Greenpeace, UN, etc.)	Aging white community - where is the diversity? Need more young people, families, ethnicity; we're good at theory and philosophy talks but do we do much hands-on helping? e.g., DTES, satellite services	More diverse congregation in age, ethnicity, engaged and involved outside UU community; offer services not on Sunday morning for young people that can't (or won't) take off that time from their weekend (wink wink)
Quality of sermons - the one on re-enchantment 3 weeks ago was wonderful	My father-in-law was a secular humanist - Unitarian Church was a place where he could express his values and I followed	My wife has dementia. I never get affirmation here - I have to go to Alzheimer's Society for that.	Would like to see church (minister) get more in touch with pathos in peoples' lives - we live in perilous times and need to have our courage fortified
The wonderful souls I have met	My search for like-minded souls as I grow and become more aware of this wonderful universe	I haven't been here long enough	Expanded view of those with disabilities in terms of how the church is laid out. How welcoming is it? e.g., ramp to podium
My best instincts get reinforced here. It is wonderful to worship with friends here. I find many examples of how to live the way a decent thinking person should - namely with love and respect for all living things and for the planet	Freedom from doctrine; search for the 'good life'; acceptance of the wisdom of many traditions, religious and philosophical; shared love of music, poetry and all art forms and realizing their grounding in spirituality	Our numbers remain small - we are restricted in acting on our insights and values politically. This latter must change.	More people to join us and more diversity.

A wonderful choir. Insightful homily and discussion. Contribution to community	Freedom to believe. A public, safe space to celebrate/worship/explore and find solace	A busy life. A sense of obligation to do "more".	Storytelling. Reconciliation with First Nations. Exploring the power of belief
UCV programming (ARE); Sunday services; the community events & the community itself	Desired spiritual guidance to live the 'good life'; loneliness	Lack of people my age; little ethical teachings; inconsistent communication about UCV issues (e.g. retirement of Ravina)	A wider demographic attending UCV; more philosophical type events (i.e., what is the 'good life' and how do we live it)
Sense of community; community supports my values, which are different from those of the larger society	Religious education for my daughter that reflects my values	Shortage of money; few fellowship opportunities; too few people with similar values join us	Draw more people in by offering more events for the public; somehow raise our public profile
Deep connection/spirituality; compassionate community building; outreach work; safe, loving community; insightful service & followup discussion	Search for spirituality; family; community opportunity (outreach work)	Intense intellectual & service focus sometimes reduces connection. Obligation?	Circles - sing facing one another? Or maybe just all turn and face the center? More interactive services; dedication to inviting the congregation to engage in projects (announce projects before beginning on bulletin board/in order of service); services for big
Interesting sermons; interesting people, community; music; importance of supporting liberal religion as fundamentalist religions expand; beautiful, inspiring sanctuary	Children's RE; interesting sermon topics; music experienced at church	Lack of money	Continued importance of worship; keeping sanctuary space for worship; voice and action for social justice, environmental issues; continued children's RE
Hope; desire to get more from life	To find spirituality; fellowship	Conflicts; coping with daily challenges	Peace, tranquility, the ability to live in the now
To become more involved/active; to take advantage of the programs offered	Motivation, guidance	Too far for me to come without my partner; cannot attend retreats/I work weekends	A sense of belonging; to be and feel familiar in the congregation
Music, events, interesting speakers, atmosphere, bright, cheerful, open	To connect with other people		Guest speakers
The principles, sources and values are really meaningful	Seeking a community; peaceful/able to relax; able to learn-share with like minds; being accepted; love the variety - would like the hymns to be more singable and tuneful	Need more self-motivation to get involved at a deeper level; more diversity	The vision statement still expresses UU values & remains relevant - perhaps add we are an active community etc.
* Principles of UU in keeping with my own values * Range of teachings * Sense of settledness in sanctuary * Acceptance from members of congregation	* Search for spiritual community * Wish to find values, teachings in keeping with my own * Interest in a non-sectarian spiritual environment, spiritual community	Own reluctance to "sign up" with a group	* Wish to become more connected (yet ambivalence) * Reaching out to community via art/music to attract wide public attention
I am not consistent in my coming. I am a senior person, I want to move my body in the morning, would enjoy a walking group Sunday morning before church. My main reason to come, the draw, is the sermon. I am not easily drawn to groups and talking.	* Music here is wonderful * Enriching beautiful beginning * Sermon - the words, inspiration, wisdom, intelligence... sensitivity of the minister is paramount to me. Steven is all of that and more * Culture attention to social concerns	Creating the wind under my sails	Spiritual/philosophical discussion courses

<p>* Friendships * Feeling of contributing to something larger * Opportunity to reflect once a week on something beyond myself * Quality of character of people I meet here, "seekers" * Covenant groups & other discussion Music, people, duty</p>	<p>* Look for community * Spiritual infrastructure - continuity of an institution * Intergenerational experience * Cross section of views - not just my cohorts Music, ideas, architecture</p>	<p>* Occasional assumption that there is only one way to view a situation * A certain relativism - our views are determined by the times we live in and may not have lasting or staying power Demography - loss of elders/ tepid uptake of new members</p>	<p>* More families! For our continual growth * A sense of what being a Unitarian means - grounded in something larger * Belongs to the young * Board should be younger * Ministerial church both a challenge and an opportunity</p>
<p>* The challenge of Unitarianism * The comfort of its congregation</p>	<p>1st time parents... and a return, not so much to the religion I was raised in, but to religion in my life - again</p>	<p>* Money (of course) * Memberships (more and younger) * The physical presence of the church in this location - will development pressures in Vancouver make it impossible to stay here?</p>	<p>Would like to see more of the resources and the tech of the world wide web brought to the church and services</p>
<p>So much! Interesting people, beautiful buildings and grounds. Steven! The choir, the way of managing everything. The children and how they are treated.</p>	<p>Meeting Michael (???) and his wife and the UCV group in the anti-war parade years ago (me a newcomer to Vancouver)</p>	<p>My aging</p>	<p>May we continue to thrive. A group for seniors M & F (daytime)</p>
<p>* The way you work with children, and actually work with them as if they are the future * Your respect towards all people, and willingness to fight for tolerance</p>	<p>* My job singing in the choir * My desire to find a place where I can be faithful/spiritual at my pace</p>		<p>* To see more wonderful people walk through the door every week, feeling the joy and love we intend to express * Start maybe having some of the older scholars participate at the beginning of service, maybe reading the story? To become truly accessible - exterior doors open and close in each building, stage has a ramp or elevator - grants are available (Rick Hansen/Accessibility 4 All)</p>
<p>The music, the shared values</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>Not completely accessible for mobility handicapped folks</p>	
<p>Good people</p>	<p>Music (Harold Brown!), community, social action</p>	<p>Budget limitations, not enough volunteerism - too few do a lot of the work</p>	<p>How about diverting our CRE funds (\$50k) for the tiny # of our kids - 12/wk at story time last year by my count, and doesn't seem to be growing in spite of our efforts - divert funds to ARE. We could have a thriving program - akin to a city new-age spiritual center. We attract more young families (both young adults and children)</p>
<p>* Singing (choir and hymns in service) * Sermons that make me think and teach me something * Gardening * Community</p>	<p>* Originally my children (I stayed for myself) * Choir * Various committees</p>	<p>Conflict (nastiness) though that seems to have been resolved</p>	
<p>* Music/choir * Community * Sunday services restore my sense of calm, perspective, and are inspiring</p>	<p>* Desire for spiritual home * Place to bring my children to discuss the 'big questions' * Choir</p>	<p>* More spiritual depth/teaching * Diversity of views/beliefs vis-à-vis spirituality & religion is both a strength and a drawback</p>	<p>* More study/social groups * Development of Unitarian 'prayers' * More young people</p>
<p>* Music, community, intergenerational connection * Chances to pause in life's busyness and focus on what's important</p>	<p>Music, community</p>	<p>* Aging congregation - difficulty engaging young adults, financial changes * Entrenched attitudes and fear of change</p>	<p>* Greater diversity * Revisit welcoming of congregation process * Fully accessible sanctuary</p>
<p>* Singing/choir * Companionship * Art * Containment * Sense of belonging</p>	<p>* Need for community * Living ideas - social justice, music, art, beauty, ritual, inspiration</p>	<p>* Sometimes experience judgemental attitudes - negativity, criticism, superiority</p>	<p>* Better relationship to members * More trust * More commitment * More diversity</p>

The friendships	The services	Accessibility	More children
<p>* Reminder of what's important in life * Diverse fields of engagement (social justice, environment, women's rights, LGBT) * Art and beauty (music, paintings on walls, poetry in service) * Friendly atmosphere & activities * Children's story * Songs from the hymnal * Fellowship - familiarity * Re-enforcement of principles of UCV * The sermon's messages and encouragement</p>	<p>It was a discovery totally by chance (I lived nearby and was checking out the churches in the neighbourhood)</p> <p>* Freedom of thought * No credos * Agreement with UCV principles</p>	<p>Not always easy to meet the people - more young people & from diverse backgrounds</p> <p>My advanced age, long distance from residence, W.O.W. transport (reluctant driver if at all)</p>	<p>* Outreach to people from different backgrounds * Relationship with First Nations people * Pews in circles instead of facing front</p> <p>Hopes that the congregation keeps growing and that we have some impact in society</p>
<p>* Liberal community * Feel appreciated * Subjects presented * Church is a beacon in the city * Minister</p>	<p>Children's ed, community of like-minded people, sermons</p>	<p>Membership maintained, attracting diverse nationalities</p>	
<p>* The wonderful people * Worthwhile activity of committees * Choir * My husband's commitment</p>	<p>* My brother-in-law's encouragement * A place for our family with a Jewish/Chinese background * A diverse religious education for our children (it served them well)</p>	<p>* With very busy work/life I've had to carefully consider how I contribute * Unnecessary divisions among members</p>	<p>* As I near retirement, I plan to be more involved outside of choir & Sundays * A careful planning for Steven's succession - he has been wonderful</p>
<p>* I feel cared about here * Commitments e.g. choir, committee work * Gratitude! * A sense of welcome</p>	<p>* Exploring & deepening into the sacred * Like-minded community * Small group activities to enhance connection & friendships</p>	<p>* In the past - factionalism * That event for 'generous donors' - end that elitism!</p>	<p>* Adult ed. Courses * Fun community events like the Oct. pot luck! * Let's bring back the 'Coming of Age' mentorship program & learning from the youth * Ride sharing for elders to facilitate presence at services</p>
<p>* A community of seekers and questioning * Music * Youth program</p>	<p>Somewhere to use my skills and connect with others</p>	<p>Time & very busy lives</p>	<p>* Vibrant and sustainable children's and youth programs connected to rest of congregation * Diverse congregants to bring more viewpoints * Young adult programming</p>
<p>* The open & warm welcome from members * The music - always the music</p>	<p>* The desire for community and acceptance * A home for my heart & spirit * Major change in my life - looking for new connections</p>	<p>Other competing demands... (illegible handwriting)</p>	<p>More open and accessible to covenant groups, discussions about faith & belief, intergenerational activities</p>
<p>Ongoing explorations from the pulpit of the mystery of life. Enthusiasm for the Seven principles of Unitarianism. Good music, good food, good people</p>		<p>* An aging congregation * A less affluent economy - decreased revenues/increased costs * Encourage members to bring friends</p>	<p>Talk up the RE program to attract young parents</p>
<p>* Mid-life desire for something outside of work/kids * Community connections with interesting and committed people</p>		<p>The buildings are both blessings and drawbacks - like roots they nourish and root the congregation ... (illegible handwriting)</p>	<p>Many more opportunities for people (especially new people) to engage as part of a small group - spread out geographically</p>
<p>Friends, allies, coffee, library, forums, potlucks, art, music, choir</p>	<p>* Security * 2nd home * search for God * other religious study</p>	<p>* Funds * Lack of new, young people * Statue thieves</p>	<p>* More young members * More forums * More of the same!</p>

<p>* Thoughtful processes like this! * The beauty and sanctuary of our beautiful spaces * Community * Alignment with my ideologies * Lifelong religious education * The place of music and art</p>	<p>* Desire for community * Emphasis on social justice and activism * Clearly a place where I could "roll up my sleeves" * A place for my children/all ages * Absence of dogma - no "sin" or vengeful God * The elders</p>	<p>* Attracting cultural and economic diversity into our congregation * Steven's pending retirement * Finances</p>	<p>* Work to attract a diverse congregation * Support our minister * Refine and expand our congregational understandings & policies on inclusion and acceptance * Increased ability to provide access for all abilities * Reach out to young families * Where's our suggestion We need more members and I have long felt that the challenge of membership is tied to a clearer identification of our most basic convictions and understandings - sacredness of life, interdependence of being, kindness, compassion, love, that we are the Rich intergenerational community, self-sustaining, source of values and groundedness for larger community</p>
<p>Virtually everything. I love it here. The people, the music, the sermons, the buildings, the opportunity to explore religious questions without the (illegible) of traditional theism</p>	<p>Curiosity and failure to find a place in more conventional churches - when I came here, I was no longer angry after church</p>	<p>Finding a minister to replace Steven will be difficult. Membership again, especially young families</p>	<p>That UU principles be more influential in society - attract a wider spectrum of ethnicities, ages * That we elect more government MPs, senators to balance fundamentalist, extremist views</p>
<p>* Friendship, beauty, Sunday service * Opportunity for meaningful conversation with like-minded people * Opportunity to be in service to others * Richness, depth, diversity of community</p>	<p>Searching for spiritual home</p>	<p>Difficulties in funding, given Vancouver economy and demographics</p>	<p>* Aging community - need to encourage young people who come to the church for the first time to stay, make them feel welcome - should be a system, not leave it to church. Focus on 2-3 areas we will concentrate on to contribute to wide community of * "Storefront" locations or services in East Van, Downtown, etc... café style? * Increased participation & wide range of (illegible) for 30-40 somethings...</p>
<p>* Spiritual teachings from wisdom traditions from East and West * Spiritual practices shared via ritual, song, meditation * New & old friendships & social opportunities for meaningful talk, sharing a movable feast, forum, committees * The people I know and have worked with * Environmental work * Homilies/sermons</p>	<p>Seeking community of shared beliefs and practices * Deepening my understanding of the good life/death and core teachings of ethical behaviour drawn from cross-cultural sources * Place to give time and effort</p>	<p>Coping with members' idiosyncracies with lack of funding for programs</p>	<p>* UU principles be more influential in society - attract a wider spectrum of ethnicities, ages * That we elect more government MPs, senators to balance fundamentalist, extremist views</p>
<p>Spiritual connections; listening to music; the choir; Steven's sermons; learning about science; support for people with mental health issues. STEVEN</p>	<p>* Social justice/activism * Looking to make new friends * Discussing religions</p>	<p>* Difficult to get to know people - not that friendly for introverts * Getting younger members * Too small a group who do all the major work</p>	<p>* Aging community - need to encourage young people who come to the church for the first time to stay, make them feel welcome - should be a system, not leave it to church. Focus on 2-3 areas we will concentrate on to contribute to wide community of * "Storefront" locations or services in East Van, Downtown, etc... café style? * Increased participation & wide range of (illegible) for 30-40 somethings...</p>
<p>Inspiring homilies; chalice choir; welcoming people; classes where I can learn more about who I am/understanding the bigger picture; learning new ways to find ecstasy, joy</p>	<p>* Desire for spiritual community that is not linked to religious dogma * Desire for intergenerational connections</p>	<p>* Language & structure perilously close to Christian tradition * The physical location/demographics feel 'far' from the center of my community</p>	<p>* A more effective way of engaging new members and welcoming them to the community * Succession planning - having more young people being active and engaged in the congregation * More connection between existing members who live in the same * More classes on existential psychology * Opportunities to engage in meaningful ritual (pagan, esoteric, etc.)</p>
<p>* Curiosity - what will I learn today? * Services always have an a-ha moment * The music/choir * Sense of community * Desire to be a part of a larger community - UU around the world - want to contribute - do something that will make a difference * All of it. Our interdependence * The people & their many interactions * Steven's approach & compassion & willingness to think about why we are here & what is important - the mystery of life * Exploration</p>	<p>The need for deeper meaning in my life - not bible-based, but spiritual. The need to connect with a like-minded community</p>	<p>* Needing money to keep the place going, so difficult for low-income people to be a part of the congregation if they can't contribute financially * Sometimes there's a feeling of isolationism or elitism, hard for members to connect with & understand Cliques, people closed off; Dominant people silencing others' voices</p>	<p>* A more effective way of engaging new members and welcoming them to the community * Succession planning - having more young people being active and engaged in the congregation * More connection between existing members who live in the same * More classes on existential psychology * Opportunities to engage in meaningful ritual (pagan, esoteric, etc.)</p>
<p>* The people! The beautiful services, music, buildings * Intellectual stimulation * I "came home" and never wanted to leave * Support when things are tough * Great ministers!</p>	<p>Sense of community; wanting more of a sense of meaning; want to work toward social change/justice; existential anxiety</p>	<p>Too few doing too much - there can be a feeling of pressure to do more (maybe that is just me)? * Busy lives. How to do more than Sunday service & contribute without draining members?</p>	<p>* Engaging more young people * More diversity - we are mostly older white folks * Be known for all we do * Support for one another!</p>
<p>* The people! The beautiful services, music, buildings * Intellectual stimulation * I "came home" and never wanted to leave * Support when things are tough * Great ministers!</p>	<p>* My husband! * Openness, lack of dogma, variety in services * Stimulus in Steven's thoughts, plus warmth and beauty</p>	<p>* Hard to reach the many people out there who would love to be here and don't know how to find us * Housing cost in Vancouver, forcing, especially young families, to leave</p>	<p>* To keep the spirit we have so strongly now * To attract more people who are committed to our principles</p>
<p>* The people! The beautiful services, music, buildings * Intellectual stimulation * I "came home" and never wanted to leave * Support when things are tough * Great ministers!</p>	<p>Admiration for character & (illegible) of first Unitarian met. Went to Peter (illegible)'s church (Seattle) and found most people were like Lillian. Moved to Vancouver - "came home" to UCV</p>	<p>Distance now - would love to be here more - so much offered. Not enough non-grey heads = less energy for specific jobs & congregation in general</p>	<p>Share ourselves - find money for many small provocative ads e.g. spiritual but not religious? Check us out! We need youth energy and coffee servers!</p>

Community, sharing of shared values, info on social issues, environmental issues, refugee sponsorship, arts programs, mental health programs & events * Steven's sermons and visions	Need for spiritual home; like-minded people; current events, music & art participation; in the wilderness society for 20+ years; Children's program	Constant commitments to programs; As I age, younger congregation to carry the torch on	Ongoing with our existing leader & active community - hopefully enough funds to continue in this setting - connections with other churches
The people here - how impressive they are * The minister's homilies are exceptional * The music is varied and interesting * Elliot does a great job * The opportunity to be in the social justice committee	I was seeking a group of like-minded people to interact with	Too many similar people, white, middle class. Congregation lacks diversity. Why are there so few First Nations people? Musqueam are close by. Presumption one is rejecting a former religion. The meanness with which former ministers were treated Sometimes the distance? Although have arranged car sharing * Can sometimes be too focused on UU participation without being inclusive to the wider community (limits the number of people available to volunteer & carry on the committees without the	* A variety of people from varied backgrounds, races * Political candidates invited at election time for an evening session * More youth
* Cultural experiences * Awareness & social activism * Reerend who is up-to-date on current affairs & who challenges us to take action * Friendships formed * A sense of belonging	Like-minded people * Supportive community * Personal development		* More 1st nations focus * I would like to see more bring-a-friend opportunities * Community-focused activities/programs * Perhaps honorariums offered to increase a variety of offerings * Have youth reps on committees - input perhaps through online More of the same?
Friendly; interesting, informative talks by various people; good values; seems good for my mental health	Desire for community; tolerant, seemingly compatible values; the sermon/lecture seemed interesting		
Clarity; the beauty and truth of the Unitarian vision and friendliness of its flock	To find like-minded individuals dedicated to truth, justice and compassion	Our message not getting out, our aging family	Our organization dedicated to serving the environment, social justice and compassion (and with respect for all life on this small blue planet)
Comfort and joy in our space inside and outside; the music; Steven's words and stories that increase my understanding of numerous situations past and present. Feeling connected to many members	My personal quest for peace and understanding of my worth	Ongoing requests for money - increasing one's annual commitment	Increase membership from various ethnic groups; Ongoing support and respect for those who need it - spokesman roles
Spiritual and intellectual nourishment; collaboration; community	A place for family; celebration	To grow a diverse membership	To be a leader in enabling fellow citizens to manage for the better the challenges facing local & global societies - social, economic, environmental challenges
The openness and friendliness of people with similar values, but no pressures from anyone * Find the services very stimulating and though-provoking - many challenges are presented	Somewhere to bring my children for a Christian background, but without dogma usually presented from the churches I had previously attended. I found that the values at UCV fit with my own beliefs	It is not easy to encourage others to come along and become involved in this church; Who will take over from our dedicated and tireless elders? We need to grow the children's program	I would like to see the congregation grow, with more young people and families. I find it difficult to visualize a future without Steven.
Music and philosophy; involved in (illegible)... attention to big problems for the country and the world	Thinking of what brought our family originally to the Unitarian church was to find a church that fostered attention to religious information & knowledge for children	Have seen mainly some individual problems with those individuals in charge	Expansion and continuation of the programs...(illegible)
People, community, buildings, services, music		Uncertain financial future; redevelopment of site; ministerial continuity	I am confident that we will survive as a Unitarian congregation but expect some big and maybe challenging changes
	The community	I heard a lecturer discussing Sigmund Freud and how all his most radical ideas have become so absorbed by us that we take them for granted and find it strange that anyone ever felt or believed differently. I suspect that this is the dilemma regarding Unitarianism	

	Sermons, forums, congregational friendships		Smoothing out demographic gaps - i.e., next generation of participants
Men's group meetings at the church; youth group for my son	Principles, people, community	Sunday services conflict with skiing, recreation	Sunday evening or week night evening events - talks, films, discussion groups; Redevelop parking lot to create a multi-unit housing community
It lifts my spirit; I love singing hymns	Experiencing it together with my wife and others	Personal: my singing voice is degrading	Keep staying our course!
Be good. Do good. Save the damn world.	The community spectrum of people from all views of life. Education for our kids	Energy on Sunday mornings. Competing interests. Motivation	There's a need to attract a new generation as the current generation ages. Keep to the tenets and adapt with the times.