



2025 State of the Church Survey

Summary for the Congregation

To the Congregation of University United Methodist Church,

Thank you to the 87 people who took time to share your thoughts in our State of the Church survey. Your participation reflects a congregation that is deeply invested in our shared future.

What We Heard

The survey confirmed what many of us already know: University UMC is a church built on strong foundations.

Our Music Ministry received praise - mentioned positively by nearly half of all respondents. You described our choir, organ, and special services as defining features of who we are:

"The music is incredible. Never have I heard such a beautiful choral sound in the Baton Rouge area."

"Our music ministry in particular is second to none and nurtures a unique, reflective, meaningful worship experience."

Our Community Fellowship matters deeply to you. Words like "welcoming," "fellowship," "family," and "loving" appeared throughout your responses:

"The way we minister to one another in love and welcome all."

"Loving atmosphere amongst intelligent, dedicated people."

"Our members are sincere in showing up for each other."

Our Methodist Connection was specifically praised, mentioning the church's welcoming stance to all and the strength of our small groups in the Wesleyan tradition. This represents a meaningful subset of respondents for whom inclusion is a primary reason for attendance:

"Please continue to have open arms to members who are diverse -- a main reason we continue coming back"

"The community and strong commitment to missions and social justice while maintaining a foundation in traditions of the United Methodist church."

"Very open and welcoming denomination."

Your Generosity continues to sustain us. 87% of respondents indicated they plan to support the church financially in 2026, with many noting they have already increased their giving:

"I recently increased my giving in response to the ongoing financial discussions."

"This year I increased my financial giving by 31%."

Room for Improvement

You also shared thoughtful suggestions and constructive criticisms for how we can continue to improve - in worship, communication, administration, engagement, and connection. The Executive Committee is reviewing this feedback carefully and is committed to working with the Church Council for continuous improvement of all important aspects of our church. A plan of action is being developed to respond to your suggestions. These are the themes for suggested improvement that the Executive Committee and Church Council leadership are acting upon based on your feedback:

Worship offerings and content of services

- Develop a formalized process for assessment and improvement of worship offerings (considering different styles, possibly shifting to a one service format).
- Evaluate and respond to suggestions for improvements to the flow, timing, and content of worship services to improve structure and clarity of our worship experience both in-person and online.
- Enhance our worship to encourage unity in a congregation of differing perspectives.
- In evaluating the worship experience, some respondents expressed a desire for changes in the style or content of sermons, while others feel the sermons speak directly to them and their spiritual growth. SPR and our ministers have read over and taken to heart all the responses and will make appropriate changes accordingly. SPR and our ministers will continue to evaluate and work to improve the worship experience.

Improve administrative systems & processes

- SPR is in the process of hiring an enhanced position of Church Administrator to improve administration of church programs. We are organizing volunteer support in the interim staffing shortage until a new person is hired.
- SPR and Senior Minister are focused on oversight and improved processes for timely response to church needs.
- The Executive Committee, SPR and Senior Minister are addressing noted gaps in procedures and systems.

Communication enhancements and accuracy

- SPR has expanded the Director of Communications position to full-time status to allow improvement in church communications.

- New procedures have been developed to ensure accuracy in outward-facing communication offerings to our membership and the broader community.

Growth in membership, engagement, and stewardship

- Expand outreach to the community with strategies to increase membership. Preschool and Afterschool families present an important opportunity.
- Provide various opportunities for members to be more engaged in worship, missions, outreach, discipleship, and small groups.
- Build on recent successes in providing financial transparency and develop a culture of generosity with various stewardship opportunities.

Facilities Improvements. We heard your feedback on the need for various improvements in facilities and have collected all comments which will be sent to the Trustees for improvement.

Thank you for your honesty, your faithfulness, and your love for this church. A congregation that cares enough to speak openly is a congregation with a bright future. Despite a wide range of responses to the survey, the feedback includes a strong undercurrent of hope and commitment to the future of our church. Many respondents emphasized that they love UUMC, believe in our mission, and want to see the congregation thrive. Suggestions such as consolidating services, reviving fellowship events, encouraging broader volunteerism, reaching out personally to inactive members, and “playing offense instead of defense” reflect a desire to renew our energy, pride, and shared responsibility to build a bright future for UUMC.

Grace and Peace,

Executive Committee of UUMC

Following are tables showing the satisfaction ratings for all survey questions.

How involved are you in the life of UUMC (Worship, Events, Volunteering, Small Groups, Giving)

Total Responding	How Involved	Number choosing this answer	Percentage of Total Respondents
87	Very	39	44.83
87	Somewhat	19	21.84
87	Occasionally	13	14.94
87	Rarely	11	12.64
87	Not Involved	5	5.75

How Satisfied are you with the worship services at University United Methodist Church

Total Responding	How Satisfied	Number choosing this answer	Percentage of Total Respondents
84	Very satisfied	22	26.19
84	Satisfied	28	33.33
84	Neutral	24	28.57
84	Dissatisfied	9	10.71

84	Very Dissatisfied	1	1.20
	No response	3	

Do you participate in any discipleship opportunities at UUMC?

Total Responding	Participate	Number choosing this answer	Percentage of Total Respondents
86	Yes	73	84.88
86	No	13	15.12
	No Response	1	

How would you rate the discipleship programs offered by the church?

Total Responding	Rating	Number choosing this answer	Percentage of Total Respondents
72	Excellent	36	50.00
72	Good	20	27.78
72	Average	11	15.28
72	Below Average	5	6.94
72	Poor	0	0.00
	No Response	15	

How satisfied are you with the church's mission offerings and community partnerships?

Total Responding	How Satisfied	Number choosing the answer	Percentage of Total Respondents
85	Very Satisfied	20	23.53
85	Satisfied	47	55.29
85	Neutral	17	20.00
85	Dissatisfied	1	1.18
85	Very Dissatisfied	0	0.00
	No Response	2	

How likely are you to support the church financially in 2026?

Total Responding	How Likely	Number choosing that answer	Percentage of Respondents
86	Very Likely	68	79.07
86	Likely	8	9.30
86	Unsure	2	2.33
86	Unlikely	7	8.14
86	Very Unlikely	1	1.15
	No response	1	