

Ten Things We Know About Judson Today

Fashioning a Bright Future Together: June 9, 2024

1. Judson has a long history and a positive reputation as part of the south Minneapolis community. Our building plays a significant role as a gathering place for Judson members and non-members alike. People come to Judson to engage in a spiritual community, hear music, engage in personal therapy, deliver Meals on Wheels, have their children attend the Judson Preschool, attend classes and meaningful discussions, and practice their art. Parents and grandparents bring their children to play on the playground, which is always open.
2. Judson's greatest asset is the people who call Judson their spiritual community. This church community is welcoming, well-educated, fun, quirky, professional in their work, spiritually progressive, broad in theology. We minister to the needs of the community within and outside the walls of the church, tolerant of other perspectives, artistic, creative, and curious.
3. The Judson congregation has a set of core values that guides our ministry. Social Justice, Hospitality, Deep Spirituality, and Joy permeate what, why, and how we do what we do. Our DNA is described as relational, inclusive, and creative.
4. The congregation is aging. In 2021 a strategic team estimated that 2/3 of our local membership was over age 60 at the that time. We have many very active members now in their 70's and 80's.
5. An influx of new members has joined Judson in the last 18 months. They have come for a variety of reasons, including personal connection with a Judson member, exposure to Judson through the Empty Bowls event and other Judson ministries, and closure of a nearby spiritual community. The number of "pledging units" increased from 2023 to 2024, despite several deaths.
6. Judson Church has exhibited strong engagement in the areas of racial justice, climate justice, and justice for LGBQIA+ people. This has especially been the case since the killing of George Floyd. We continue to learn and hope to be a transforming community.

“Ten Things We Know About Judson Today,” continued

7. We have a wonderful church building, which is an outstanding setting for worship and many other activities. However, our building also presents a challenge: the Property Committee has identified over \$350,000 of likely expense over the next 10 years, beyond routine budget maintenance.
8. Judson has been blessed by the generosity of members and non-members through their pledges and other offerings, special extraordinary gifts, and occasional capital campaigns. Most recently, we have adopted deficit budgets for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 budget years. While we have money available to cover most if not all of this two-year deficit, this is a non-sustainable trend.
9. Judson has a talented, experienced, and committed staff, along with excellent lay leadership for committees and church activities. As we look forward to the next 10 years, we need to proactively plan to ensure continued excellence.
10. Judson’s electronic presence and outreach is maturing. This is a broadened area of ministry and activity since the beginning of Covid. We seek consistent and high-quality electronic production, connecting in meaningful ways with those who interact with Judson in ways other than personal attendance.

Springboard Questions About “Ten Things We Know About Judson”

1. What is one point you would add to the “Ten Things” list?
2. What in the list jumps out at you, and why?
3. What does a bright future for Judson look like in your mind?
4. What is an idea you have for moving us to a bright future?
5. What would you like to further discuss at the July 14 and August 11 forums, to prepare us for strategic planning this fall?