

A Summary of the Unity Center in Milwaukee Congregation Survey

Dear Unity Family,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Congregation Survey. Your thoughtful responses, heartfelt hopes, and honest concerns have provided the Board with invaluable guidance as we prayerfully discern the future of Unity Center in Milwaukee.

One of the most encouraging discoveries from the survey was not how different our opinions are, but how much we share a common vision. While individual preferences vary, the themes that emerged were remarkably consistent.

This report is not intended to list every comment. Instead, it reflects the ideas that surfaced again and again throughout the survey.

What We Heard

1. Our Church Is More Than a Building

Perhaps the strongest message we heard was that Unity is not defined by its building.

People spoke about wanting a place that feels sacred, welcoming, peaceful, and spiritually uplifting. While a suitable facility is important, what matters most is preserving the spirit of our community.

Many expressed the hope that our next home will feel like a true spiritual home—not because of its size or appearance, but because of the love and presence we bring into it together.

We heard you.

2. We Are Ready to Grow

Again and again, members expressed excitement about the opportunities that lie ahead.

You spoke about:

- welcoming new members
- attracting younger families
- expanding children's ministries
- offering more classes and workshops
- increasing outreach to our community
- creating opportunities for healing and spiritual growth
- becoming a vibrant and visible presence in Milwaukee

Rather than simply preserving what we have, many of you envision creating something even stronger for future generations.

That is both exciting and inspiring.

3. Relationships Matter Most

Many responses reminded us that the greatest strength of Unity Center in Milwaukee has always been its people.

Members consistently expressed the desire to preserve:

- our welcoming spirit
- our sense of family
- our friendships
- our support for one another
- our shared spiritual journey

The Board recognizes that buildings may change, but our commitment to one another must remain constant.

4. Stewardship Is Essential

Many survey participants emphasized careful stewardship of the financial resources entrusted to our church.

Several common themes emerged:

- Protect the proceeds from the sale of our current property.
- Choose a facility that is financially sustainable.
- Minimize maintenance costs whenever possible.
- Think about future generations, not just today's needs.
- Build a lasting financial foundation for Unity's future.

The Board shares these priorities and is committed to making thoughtful, prayerful financial decisions.

5. Accessibility Matters

Many members emphasized the importance of choosing a location that is:

- easy to reach
- safe
- accessible for everyone
- welcoming to visitors
- convenient for parking
- designed with mobility needs in mind

These practical considerations will remain an important part of our search process.

6. Communication Builds Trust

One of the clearest messages we received was the desire for continued communication throughout this transition.

Members asked that leadership:

- keep everyone informed
- explain decisions openly
- listen carefully
- honor our history
- involve the congregation whenever possible

The Board is committed to maintaining that spirit of openness as we continue this journey together.

Looking Ahead

Although this survey included many different opinions and ideas, one conclusion became unmistakably clear:

Our congregation is hopeful.

There is excitement about creating a church that is financially sustainable, spiritually vibrant, welcoming to newcomers, and positioned for growth.

This transition represents more than moving to a different building.

It is an opportunity to become the church we believe God is calling us to be.

Together, we can build a Unity community that honors our past while creating a vibrant future for generations to come.

Thank you for your prayers, your trust, your generosity, and your continued participation in this exciting journey.

With gratitude,

The Board of Trustees
Unity Center in Milwaukee