

Initial Survey analysis:

It's important to remember that nothing about this survey is scientific and the 130 people who responded are a more involved/committed sample than People's people as a whole. (For example 14% of the respondents have served on the board or nominating committee in the past 2 years. Eight percent of our overall membership has done that.)

We know that young people are underrepresented in this data, as only 4% of the respondents are younger than 30. Much more than 4% of our community is 29 or younger.

This data is interesting, especially when compared to older data to look for trends, but it isn't strong enough to be the basis for any decisions or plans.

44 people experience **barriers and obstacles** to participating in congregational life as much as they would like, 45% of the people who answered that question. Of those who have barriers, they are:

Busyness: 55%

Physical and mental health: 20%

Distance and/or transportation: 25%

Zoom usage:

39% of the respondents use Zoom for church events at least once a month.

18% never use Zoom.

2% only use Zoom.

Comparisons Between 2024 congregational survey, 2014 congregational survey, and 1996 congregational survey.

The headline is that **we are not that different than we were ten years ago** (or even 28 years ago)! Or, at least the people who took the survey in 2024 aren't that different than people who took the survey in 2014 or 1996.

Demographic comparisons from 1996 to 2024

Our racial demographics have held largely steady. In 1996, 97% identified as white. In the two most recent surveys, 95% of the respondents identified as white.

Our percentage of men and women held roughly steady; our transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary population increased from 1% to 4%. (Male and female were the only possible answers on the 1996 survey.)

We have had the most demographic shift in sexual orientation. In 1996, 97% identified as heterosexual. In 2014, 86% of the congregation identified as heterosexual. Now, we are 76% heterosexual with 22% somewhere under the LGBTQ+ umbrella and 2% (presumably children) in the 'don't know yet' category.

We have more than double the percentage of people raised UU in our congregation in the past decade. This shift is beyond what could be accounted for by more children participating in the survey.

In what religious tradition were you raised? (only top 5 answers shown)

	1996	2014	2024
	Protestant Christianity – 63%	Protestant Christianity – 59%	Protestant Christianity– 50%
	Unitarian Universalist – 12%	Catholic Christianity – 22%	Catholic Christianity– 24%
	Catholic / Orthodox Christianity – 12%	UU – 8%	UU – 20%
	None – 7%	Other – 7%	None– 9%
		None – 5%	(nothing else received more than 2%)

In addition to Unitarian Universalism, what faith traditions are or have been important in your religious development?

2014	2024
Protestant Christianity – 40%	Buddhism – 36%
Buddhism – 38%	Protestant Christianity – 36%
Neo-Paganism – 19%	None – 21%
Catholic Christianity – 17%	Paganism – 18%

Religious Identity – the percentage of people who agree somewhat or strongly with these ‘Four Faiths’

	1996	2014	2024
	Naturalist – 61%	Naturalist – 89%	Naturalist – 98%
	Humanist - 61%	Humanist – 79%	Humanist – 85%
	Mystic – 24%	Mystic – 59%	Mystic – 57%
	Theist – 9%	Theist – 17%	Theist – 19%

(note, the 1996 survey only allowed respondents to select up to two of the four faiths, which likely resulted in lower percentages overall.)

How much is your affiliation with People's Church and/or Unitarian Universalism a source of strength or comfort to you?

2014: 89% said ‘a great deal’ or ‘a fair amount’

2024: 85% said ‘a great deal’ or ‘a fair amount’

When asked about their reasons for participating in our congregation (out of 15 possible answers)

2014	2024
UU values	Celebrating Common Values
Community / Fellowship	Community / Fellowship
Intellectual Stimulation	UU values
Celebrating Common Values	Sunday Services
Sunday Services	Intellectual Stimulation