

Ministerial Survey Results

The following are the results from The Ministerial Survey from the 152 people who completed the survey.

How many years have you been attending the church?

10+ years – 47% 1-5 years – 26% 5-10 years – 20%

In an average month, how many times do you attend a service?

4 times – 42% 3 times – 29%

What is your age?

56-70 – 54% 71+ - 21%

What is your gender?

Female – 80%

Are you involved with any “Love in Action” Team?

Yes – 68%

Are you involved, or have you been involved in the past, in one of the book study groups that we have in the Fall or Spring?

Yes – 69%

Have you ever taken any classes offered at church?

Yes – 81%

Have you ever taken a prosperity class at Unity of Bon Air?

Yes – 56%

Do you tithe to our church or to your “source of spiritual nourishment?”

Yes – 67% Occasionally – 22%

Why do you attend our church?

The Unity message that is given every week. - 62%

The fellowship / community, people who are like minded. – 37%

Where do you feel our church could use the most improvement?

Growing the church membership. – 46%

Connecting with younger generations. – 34%

Would you approve if a short affirmation were to be included at the beginning of each Sunday Service, affirming that “God is in charge and that the perfect minister was coming to us?”

Yes – 92%

Do you want our new minister to continue the Sunday Service opening greeting of... “We welcome you this morning to Unity of Bon Air, knowing and affirming that no one is here by accident or coincidence. Each one of us is here right now making up the spiritual energy that...”

Yes – 95%

Do you value the personal prayers from our Prayer Chaplains reaching out to us each month?

Yes – 86%

Do you feel that the church offers enough types of Adult Education?

Yes – 72%

What kind of adult education are you interested in?

Classes for self-improvement, enlightenment. – 69%

Rank the following in the order you see them as important to cover in our Youth and Family Ministries Programs.

Unity Principles and how to use them to move into mature adulthood.- 79%

Do you think our Bookstore offers a good blend of Unity books, music, jewelry, prayer shawls, greeting cards, and gift items?

Yes – 95%

What are your personal feelings about our membership growth?

If there are empty chairs in the sanctuary, we have room to grow - 92%

Would you like to see our church starting to do “Live Streaming” of the Sunday messages? For instance, you feel “under the weather” on a given Sunday but can still listen to the Sunday service from home.

Yes – 90%

I know that the church sends me an e-News every Wednesday as to what’s happening at church, but it would be nice to see thing’s listed or marketed better of upcoming events somewhere at church.

Yes, this would help a lot. – 52%

No, I’m already pretty much aware of what’s going on. – 48%

How did you initially find our church?

From a friend or work companion. – 63%

Just riding by on Buford Road. – 19%

Internet - through the church’s website. – 17%

Where do you envision our church in 5-7 years?

A loving and accepting environment as it is now.

Growing and supporting the enlightenment of our community and the world!

Continuing to grow and spiritually higher and brighter.

Overflowing with people young and older.

Growing in membership and community participation. More prosperity classes.

Sharing our vision of PEACE.

Energetic congregation with a spiritual focus and mission; expanded church building that is paid in full.

Continued responsive & involved leader in RVA faith communities.

Still vibrate, full of joy and caring and overflowing with children!

Helping the community, growing in members, youth involvement.

Building Sanctuary addition for attendance increases. Inspiring all of Richmond into spiritual awareness and action.

It will continue to be a force for good in the community.

As a leader in reaching out to other Unity communities in Virginia and other faith communities in a spirit of diversity and inclusiveness.

Vibrant and growing with a youthful minister! New outreach to the community and more activities.

Growing, thriving with a more identified and established presence in the community.

New minister, growth of congregation, more youth involved.

Packed house at each service.

Vibrant, lots of love, financially secure.

Continuing as a thriving, growing congregation and positive influence in our Community.

Continuing to grow always.

Strong preaching/teaching ministry with vibrant staff leadership. See strong Senior Pastor and strong Youth and Family Leaders continuing. Hope for Associate Pastor in about 3 years who will help lead us in community outreach. Challenge the spiritual growth and community commitment and we will continue to grow. The building and grounds are waiting for the next level of vibrancy. All ready have strong lay leadership in place. We need to continue to grow strong sub-committees - Senior Pastor can not, nor should be expected to do it all. We are ready to move on.

Growing to improve the hearts and minds of all people. And keeping that warm feeling of belonging.

Thriving, active, lots of adult education, plenty of community outreach, actually presenting and teaching Unity Principles.

Larger congregations in every way.

Larger, more involved in the community as a interfaith partner.

Active in community, bustling with good energy.

Inclusive to all members, reaching out to everyone in the congregation.

Continuing to offer unity principles to the people in our area. Being a welcoming place for those looking for a non traditional church modality.

More reaching out to each other. A bigger crowd in our sanctuary.

A dynamic loving minister, a happy youth community.

With a higher membership.

Organized, under a dynamic new minister.

Well known in the community for love and acceptance for all. Also, financially stable and growing membership.

Growing with younger people...

Standing room only membership. I thriving youth ministry. A thriving senior

Ministry. Adult education classes fill to capacity ongoing programs,

Outreach Ministries, awesome and exciting family ministry. A thriving prosperous exciting joyful and loving Church. That make a huge impact on our community.

How would you rank a potential new Minister's top skills?

Good speaker – 51%

Theologian, strong Unity belief system – 45%

How would you rank the desired character traits of a new Minister?

Filled with spiritual Joy that is contagious. – 51%

Honest and trustworthy – 30%

How would you rank the most important leadership qualities that our new Minister must possess?

Inspiring and challenging minister and teacher – 64%

Well-loved leader and vision-caster – 24%

How would you rank what the new Minister should focus most of their energy/time on.

Raising the spiritual consciousness of the congregation – 83%
Growing the church, attracting new members and retention of old members – 16%

In a Sunday lesson, how would you rank the following components which are most important to you.

Spiritual nourishment – 66%
Application to everyday life – 31%

Rev. Joyce has always made an effort to bring in Guest speakers from time to time. Do you enjoy this practice and make an effort to be in attendance for our Guest speakers?

Yes, I always look forward to our Guest speakers. – 89%

Expectations of Minister. Please rank the following in order of importance concerning our new Minister.

Presenter, effective speaker – 55%
Leadership – 18%
Interpersonal communication – 16%

How would you rank the following important traits of a new Minister?

Spiritual Depth – 59%
Passion – 32%

A special thanks to all those people who took the time to participate in this survey. Your opinion matters.

You are Loved at Unity of Bon Air.