

Talents & Interests Survey
Membership Umbrella
Unitarian Church of Lincoln - February 2018

Question: What is the Talents and Interests Survey?

Answer: It is a survey that asks you questions to learn about what activities you might be interested in participating in through our church. It is a tool for church staff and lay leaders to better connect with you and learn about your interests and needs.

Question: Why are we doing this?

Answer: The Membership Umbrella and other church leaders felt that at the start of our new settled ministry it would be a great time to check-in with the congregation and learn more about their needs.

Question: Haven't I already filled out something about what activities I want to participate in? OR I already feel connected to the activities I like, should I still participate?

Answer: You may have! It is standard practice for folks to fill out a paper form about what activities and committees they are interested in when they first join the church. We thought it was important to survey the entire congregation because we have many long-term members and we want to keep our information consistent and up-to-date. This also helps us see larger trends in the summary data that helps us better understand our congregation as a whole. We also can use your responses to gauge what you are interested in as well as what you are not interested in, which helps us keep our information up-to-date and focus our communications with you.

Question: What are you going to do with my information?

Answer: Your results will be used by church staff (like Judy Hart, Membership Associate and Oscar Sinclair, Minister) and by lay leaders (such as the Membership Umbrella and the Nominations Committee) to try and better connect you with the things you are interested in about our community.

We will also create a summary report of our findings as a whole that will be shared with the congregation, but that will not include any of your personally identifiable information. This will help us see larger trends and interests in our community so we appreciate your participation even if you already feel connected to the activities you enjoy.

Question: Are you going to do this survey again? OR What if my answers change?

Answer: This is our first time ever doing a survey like this of the full congregation. If it goes well and proves useful for our community, our committee will consider doing this survey on a regular basis (maybe every few years, with annual reminders to update your information). We also hope that the information you share can eventually be uploaded into our church's new database software, where you could have a profile you can update whenever you like. We'll keep you updated on any developments in this area. In the meantime, you can also contact the Membership Umbrella or the front office if you want to update/change/add to your information.

Question: Why is it called talents and interests?

Answer: One thing our committee recognized is that people have many talents and professional skills, but the way we like to use those in our personal lives can vary. Some individuals like to do totally different things during their working hours than they do during their leisure time and so we tried to design the survey to let you self-identify which talents you want to share. We also wanted to recognize that there are areas where each of us may not have skills, but we are willing to learn to do something new, which can both help the church and give us a new skillset. We wanted to create a survey that reflected those different experiences so that Membership Associates and Nominations Committee can get to know our members more deeply and make sure we are connecting you in ways that you find satisfying.

Question: How do I complete the survey?

Answer: Just follow the link and you can complete the survey completely online. If you are comfortable and able to complete the survey online that is our first choice. It makes data collection and management easier for our volunteers.

Question: What if I don't have a computer or I don't feel comfortable with an online survey?

Answer: No problem! We still really want you to participate and we can help. Just let us know and we can get you a paper copy of the exact same survey. You can also request a volunteer to help you fill out the survey either by phone or by computer with you.