



Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church

Who We Are!

Question 2 Values - Notes compiled from all sessions and online responses - unedited

2)a What are the 3 most important values that you aspire to?

- Evidenced base free thinking rather than assertions and dogma.
- Best from different backgrounds .
- Religious tolerance to different beliefs and worship that respect others' beliefs. DITTO
- Accepting all people for who they are and
- Diversity of humanity.
- Freedom to think what you want. DITTO
- Generosity of congregants of time, money, talents.
- Living honestly
- Nonjudgmental of others DITTO
- Exploring love and compassion thru action
- Acceptance of everyone DITTO
- Love for others that is nonjudgmental DITTO
- Openmindedness to people
- Work ethic of congregation
- Inclusiveness
- Love of people. DITTO
- Respect of all
- Spirituality
- Compassion
- Web of life
- Respecting everything including animals, plants, etc.
- Kindness
- Gratefulness
- Being human
- Integrity
- Kindness DITTO
- Biggest: a reason I keep coming back; inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Respect for the interdependent web of which we all are a part, goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

- Acceptance of others; all human beings, living creatures. Also basic honesty, truth, nonjudgmental.
- Values: different opinions people have, just b/c I think something should be one way, there's a lot of variety in what people think. Focus on looking for middle ground with people they do not agree with.
- Aspire to looking for positive things in people and maybe come around to [understanding].
- Accepting differences in people is important; thinking differently about people with different races, sexual identity - this has changed.
- Kindness is most important value; open and sincere communication; helping, protecting all including the planet.
- Showing respect. PUUC and speaker are aligned. Respect for others, environment, elders.
- Social justice most important value; climate activist done mostly outside of PUUC – interdependent web of life, cooperation we need to save the planet
- Chaotic household growing up so most important to be kind to those nearby, checking in on neighbors; aspires to being truthful at all times but not in an unkind way; loves the church and it's important to spread the word what we are doing at PUUC.
- Values: can see playing out in adult children who live the values they got in this church. PUUC has informed their value systems. Own 3 values: kindness, fairness, empathy but empathy is part of love; love is the source of all the good values. Fairness companion is justice, being inclusive and accepting. Kindness is the foundation; we should strive for it b/c it lets us relate to people in the best way we can.
- Compassion for others, empathy of their situations, leading with love - these are most important in how I live my life
- Integrity, ethical, respectful, honest - can be sometimes honest to a fault! Wears everything on their sleeve
- Generosity of spirit and selflessness, open-minded
- Community - inclusion
- Service and social justice
- Kindness
- Spiritual growth, seeking growth, not be static
- Honesty and transparency
- Loves people who walk the talk
- Beliefs that inspire action
- Right relations - that's a work in progress
- Spiritual growth
- Open-mindedness

- New ideas - sharing and learning from others in the community
- Feeding the soul
- Feeling at home
- Integrity
- Justice and fairness
- Kindness and compassion
- Can't pick out three, likes seven principles, feels we are trying to live them. Central is love
- Wants to be seen as someone who is loving, and brings joy to others
- Honesty is important, social justice is important, take a little time to think higher thoughts
- Wants to be loving, creativity guides life, nature is her sanctuary, loves interconnected web
- Caring for community, spiritual inclusiveness, respect for others and for life
- Authenticity, generosity, welcoming
- Integrity, compassion, and living one's values
- Honesty three times
- Integrity (being who she is), connection, and awareness –getting outside conventional bubble
- Honesty (motivated by facts and science), compassion, and action
- Seven principles, Golden Rule, plus ditto
- Personal growth, getting past old things, social justice, integrity
- grace
- critical thinking
- service (4x)
- ethics
- justice (2x)
- inclusiveness (2x)
- open mindedness
- integrity
- curiosity
- kindness
- accept difference
- all equal
- equity
- generosity
- kindness
- honesty

- respect (2x)
- equality
- honesty
- growth
- compassion
- making positive change
- love (2x)
- spirituality
- love in action
- Compassion
- Community DITTO
- Integrity DITTO
- Justice DITTO 3X
- Equity DITTO 2X
- Independence
- Compassion DITTO
- Honesty DITTO
- Loyalty to self and others
- Kindness and empathy
- Environmentalism
- Commitment
- Acceptance, Respect and equality
- Multigenerational community
- Doing good
- Community based on spirituality, equity and music!
- Patience
- Having respect for others and being respected
- Love
- Respect
- Welcoming all people
- Accessibility
- Community
- Family
- Commitment to make things better than I found them
- Honesty -with self and all
- Openness and inclusiveness
- Compassion
- Honesty

- Generosity
- Equity
- Openness
- Caring
- Stimulation - wanting to be challenged and grow while learning new things
- Like opportunity to mentor others to learn
- Authenticity
- Compassion and respect
- Courage
- Treating people like I would like to be treated
- Caring
- Generosity
- Dignity
- Acceptance
- Compassion
- Inclusivity
- Reflection - leading a reflective life
- Taking responsibility for bettering the world
- Playfulness, lightness of being
- Pluralism and diversity
- Compassion
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Respect
- Open-mindedness
- Curiosity to learn and grow
- Inherent worth and dignity of all people
- Social justice actions
- Change and growth
- Community connectedness to other humans
- Kindness
- Compassion
- Empathy for others
- Patience with those who think differently from me on all levels (family as well as political)
- Community
- Like-minded liberal community
- Trust in others

- Demonstrate active concern for one another
- Invitational and welcoming community that seeks to serve larger community's wants and needs
- Love
- Kindness
- Curiosity
- Be a good person
- Generosity
- Social justice
- Growth through life
- Compassion
- Social action
- Helping others grow and thrive
- Care for all living things in the environment
- Understand varied viewpoints
- Treat others with respect
- Responsive to local community's needs
- Work to share ideas about what is going on in the world
- Truthfulness to others and to self
- Respect to others even if don't agree
- Maintaining a sense of humor
- Patience, honesty, curiosity, fairness, sense of humor
- Respectful, responsible, impassioned
- Love, justice, community
- Most important to her in life - discerning g-d (life, love). What came into being for with birth and what I'm here to manifest. Love, compassion, reverence,
- Generosity, kindness, and love
- Religious tolerance
- Respect for others and the environment
- Community
- The inherent worth and dignity of every person, equity and compassion in human relations, and respect for the interdependent web of existence.
- Honesty, the truth. Not being judgmental, not to be biased, work to recognize one's biases and fight them. Be of service - feel whole when you are helping others.
- Loving and helping each other.
- Social justice.
- Walking our talk.

- Loving kindness, and compassion. and thinking outside of the box, or beyond the typical ways of doing things (remember, I was born out west, in Colorado, where the thinking is rarely within a very strong "box," and the Puritan ways of doing things are not the norm.
- integrity, acceptance, compassion
- Service to others, openness, and creativity
- spiritual awareness/practice
- connection to the divine
- opportunities to support my community
- Compassion, love, preservation of nature.
- Be kind, be thoughtful, be ethical
- "Being a good person
- Contributing to the common good
- Working for the acceptance of positive values in our society"
- Gratefulness, Inclusiveness, Magnanimity

2)b What values do you want PUUC to aspire to? .

- Consistency and less nebulous direction and work. Too many directions at the same time.
- Social justice action in many places like from pulpit when social justice elsewhere in the world is mentioned DITTO
- More focus on social justice action that we can incorporate into our lives.
- Be more proactive in social justice.
- Compassion and carrying in the community.
- Walk our talk more.
- Social justice
- Express love and compassion through action
- Values we have now. X 5
- Continue that love is the spirit of the truth
- More and more service
- More work IN the community
- Express principles better
- Values that are derived from other religions
- Reaching out to more people outside of ourselves to learn about UUism and be proud of our beliefs
- Place where people can exercise kindness and gratitude in community
- Embrace all parts of community including animals and plants
- Values of younger people that we can learn from and stay relevant

- Values for PUUC: all of the above. Inherent worth is the most basic.
- Question: not sure what shape wants to see SJ going forward; could that be morphed into more or less than it is?
- PUUC values aspire to honesty, truth, social justice component.
- Values of PUUC heading in the right direction.
- PUUC is going in the right direction. Like to see us continue what we are doing but make it more visible in the community.
- Continue to put info in the newspaper and invite others in for example to enjoy music. Introduce PUUC thru music to invite others in.
- PUUC aspires to some of those same goals - climate activism
- PUUC aspired values are happening already.
- Love, justice, kindness. Those are what they see PUUC already doing and aspiring to for the future.
- More community involvement - show what we are about
- Bring people in and show who we are and that we are nice people
- Get out in the community
- Strive to get more young families and youth involved, in addition to older adults who part of community
- Multigenerational environment
- Parents having opportunity to know other parents with similar age children
- Ditto about growing community, meeting needs of community members
- Listen and understand where people come from
- Accessibility
- Focus on value of community within church walls
- Aspire to be part of greater community more
- Serving the community as well as outside
- Get more families and kids involved - out-of-the box ways
- Intergenerational community
- Effective communication
- Bringing conflict situations down and under control - led to kindness, thoughtfulness
- Cooperation
- Organization as we grow from small to medium sized congregation - need to develop some procedures, people need to know!
- As we grow, we need to streamline communication, make sure everybody knows what is going on.
- Reach out to community
- Bring in young families - may need to do something different than have sunday school classes

- Have fun together - game night, dances - use those ideas to reach out
- Justice work in the world - within and beyond Peterborough
- Work on projects together to make the world a better place - brings people together
- Share our values of kindness and compassion with others
- Enjoyed opportunity to get to know people better - need to provide more opportunities
- Wants PUUC get involved in public service, support women in crisis, responsibility to work with youth and left them know about values
- Love and acceptance, connect PUUC to bigger UU world to expand our output
- Be a safe trusting home for people who are not in mainstream
- Individual caring, people seen and cared for, social justice work,
- Inclusivity, all stages of life
- Compassion and spiritual growth
- Honest dealing with world, compassion, and do something useful
- Social justice, loves all this music with community invited, have fun,
- A place for younger people, try to reach them, social justice, inclusivity,
- Trying to be democratic, participatory, not just minister doing things, we are all the church
- Agrees with what others have said, social justice
- respect
- inclusivity (2x)
- honest in relations to each other
- intergenerational
- social justice
- respectful
- equity in community
- generosity
- kindness
- friendliness
- open mindedness
- generosity
- social justice
- spiritual expansion/growth (2x)
- joy connection
- justice
- service to community
- love
- social justice through action
- understand we have not lived other ones life

- service
- intergenerational
- deep sense of community
- expand past my limitations
- organizational health
- coordinated community
- joyful celebration
- Multigenerational community
- Action within the community
- Modeling a lifestyle that respects our climate
- Living up to the PUUC principles
- Community based on spirituality, equity and music!
- Proactive liberalism, community visibility
- Justice and equality, taking public positions
- Education around equity language
- Continue principles with an addition of environmental sustainability
- Commitment
- Equity
- Involvement in social justice
- Openness
- Caring for individuals
- Trustworthiness of relationships within congregation and community
- Making a contribution - being involved in making things better
- Equity
- Love
- Spirituality
- Accessibility
- Welcoming all people
- Caring for others
- Same for myself as for the congregation
- Sense of humor - get silly sometimes
- Love
- Recognized as people who exude love and welcoming and respect
- Step up and actually 'do' social justice
- Ditto
- Openness
- Inclusiveness
- Respect

- Spirituality
- Playfulness - don't sweat the small stuff and it's all small stuff
- Perspective
- Remember our history and that we are resilient, will get through trying times
- Clarity in communication
- Open and loving
- Ditto
- New Article II says it all with the important values
- Congregation is family and should be treated as such
- Open-minded and open-hearted
- Place to have fun
- Work on things together brings people together
- Authenticity as a congregation to be who we are, live our principles in the wider community
- Diversity in all its varied forms
- Trusting that we can disagree in a reasonable way
- Justice - doing the work, walking the talk
- Depth and variety of inquiry
- Collaboration followed by doing - know them by their deeds, not their words
- Trusting place to share authentically - e.g. joys and sorrows
- Closeness and sharing
- Ditto - PUUC has these values already
- Playfulness and sense of humor - laughter
- Don't just go by the book, lighten up and have fun
- Openness
- Humor
- Walk our talk more - more community outreach and participation
- Communicate more about what people in PUUC do
- Want people outside congregation to see who we are
- Be more involved in community, become a presence
- Open up to bring people in for programming to introduce people to PUUC
- More open communication, less triangulation
- Solid teamwork
- Social and environmental justice
- Community building
- Spiritual growth
- Creative and fun exploration of possibilities
- Compassion and respect for all living beings

- Growth in all forms - spiritual, personal, community
- Work together, collaborate, compromise to better community and world
- Live out our principles in meaningful, tangible ways
- Creating community
- Empowering people to live their spiritual lives in community and as individuals
- Be loving and compassionate in a world that is not always that way
- Ditto to all
- Building a community that is mindful and intentional in terms of aspirations of how to live meaningful life
- Group that strives to live to 7 principles
- Community committed to continual process of building community, sustaining its mission, and continually assisting members in operationalizing values guided by the 7 principles DITTO
- Love
- Peaceful ways to compromise
- Love, justice, community
- More articulate experience of spirituality in life together,..earth/cosmos connection.
- Worship in loving community and loving in way we relate to each other
- Compassion, respect, responsibility, and inspiration within the community
- Fairness, imagination, courage
- Religious tolerance
- Respect for others and the environment
- Community
- community, community, and compassion in human relations
- Principles are really good. We do fulfill them pretty well.
- Open-mindedness, seeing with big, compassionate hearts, and a willingness to release habits that might be restricting growth.
- Loving and helping each other.
- Social justice.
- Walking our talk.
- generosity, hospitality to all, respect and welcoming for people of different backgrounds, including a greater awareness of class disparities among the members of the congregation
- Service, openness, artistic and intellectual activity
- exploration of spiritual practices
- Green social justice and environmental protection.
- "Don't tell me what to believe or expect me to believe what you believe"
- Tell me about things I should be aware of and work to change.

- Basic UU principles are important
- Also, importance of music as part of worship
- Human rights and the value of each individual
- Compassion for and understanding of others that we interact with
- Service to advance the common good
- There is value in finding a balance in meeting the needs of those who are inclined to be spiritually focused with those who are inclined to be social justice oriented. Celebrating folks with differing inclinations would be something for PUUC to continue to aspire to.