

## **Summation of Responses from Joint Conference Survey**

OVERALL, as we move forward in looking to create something new, we need to...

- Improve communications in all forms so people find out about who we are and what we are doing – as a team and a new conference
- Create space for sharing our life stories and spiritual journeys
- Creating a new governance structure that will support what people are wanting – providing resources, support, opportunities, etc.
- Be a bold presence

These responses can give us a wealth of information to draw on as we move forward in creating a new identity.

### **1. What do you think/ feel is the purpose of a conference?**

- Support Congregations, clergy, laity
- Provide resources – renewal, closing churches, conflict resolution,
- Facilitate communications on wide gamete of issues – social justice, political analysis, theological, UCC identity
- Governance – search & call, ministerial standing, administration
- Provide mission opportunities

### **Overall sense:**

Looking for leadership of vision

Looking for help figuring out what to do and how

## **2. What are the strengths of your Conference?**

- Staff – administrative and conference ministers & associate ministers
- Good comradery – among clergy and when we gather for meetings
- Supply resources
- High number of volunteers
- We do meetings well

### **Overall sense:**

Like staff

Like fellowship

Meetings are well run and provide a spiritual experience too

## **3. What can your Conference be doing better?**

- Spend more time with local churches
- Help understand:
  - Covenant
  - Accountability
  - Revitalization
- Share information between churches – create a space for conversation around issues
- Model church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Address the needs of congregations and pastors in church & call process
- Better Communication

### **Overall sense:**

Build better relationships between churches and with Conference.

Provide space to share stories

Congregations want help with covenant, thinking outside the box, UCC identity, accountability and moving forward.

Congregations want help to face their difficult issues – closing doors, joining with another congregation, how do we change so not to die

#### **4. Where do you find the Spirit in the life of your Conference?**

- In the work of committees, workshops, retreats, ministeriums and conference meetings
- People coming together to do the work of the church

#### **Overall sense:**

We do meetings, workshops, retreats, and gatherings well.

What we do well is because we add in the spiritual element.

#### **5. What can we do better together than separately?**

- We can better serve the need
- More mission opportunity
- More social justice work
- Provide resources in education, inspiration and conversation for:

Sharing stories

Learning communication skills and technologies

Keeping current on issues

Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Sharing vision

#### **Overall Sense:**

People want to engage and need help doing it

Resources available among us – how do we access them

Online resource bank