

1 27 19 Meaning—Desire—Doing Count

What the Fellowship means to me—

1. Helps me to keep my heart open (name given)
2. Support
3. Hope; growth; community
4. Remembering to think outside myself; community; action
5. A reminder that good can be envisioned and done
6. Community
7. Intentional community
8. Helps me feel grounded in and focused on the important parts of life
9. Relationships are always here, even if I am not
10. Knowing others share love and faith strengthens my own
11. It means a place where I can be at peace, to be myself, a place where I can grow and nurture my spirit
12. Comfort; support; stimulation; friendship; opportunity
13. Gathering of common interests
14. Community of like-minded individuals on our own unique journeys
15. Commitment to ideals, not method or doctrine; support for individual's spiritual journey
16. Various thoughts; varies from day to day; variable
17. Friendship and community
18. Thought-provoking
19. Intentional community; a community that my family chooses—with intentionality—to commune with each week, centered on common beliefs and values. It means leaving the comfort of home in order to engage with issues of justice and to be with others. It means surrounding our children with a multi-generational community of justice-seekers, a meaning beyond ourselves. It means acceptance as an atheist family seeking to live a life centered on social justice.
20. Acceptance
21. Safe place for our children to learn from people of different backgrounds
22. A support; a happy hug
23. A place of worship to re-center, and good people are here
24. Coming together to seek and to witness in a wider community
25. Community of similar thinkers/believers
26. One way to community; like-minded individuals support each other
27. Extended family; inspirational services; opportunities to be of service
28. Love; belonging; peace
29. A place where all beliefs are respected
30. A place to share joys and sorrows, and to respond to those of others
31. Safety; community; unfolding insight
32. Source of inspiration; feeds spiritual deepening in myself; raises my expectations to form community to be community
33. A place where my family is accepted exactly as they are

What I want from/for the Fellowship—

1. Have the young people do this reflection (name given)

2. More leadership of the minister at Food Not Bombs and Youth Group; a radical hospitality to all that are not middle class; intergenerational book club; art, music, self-care (like yoga) free to all; music for peace events; youth events; listen to the youth; open mic for different religious traditions (name given)
3. Financial stability
4. Renew Welcoming Congregations; youth engagement and programming; programming for adults (discussions, classes, speakers); more open to community use of the building (at low cost); increased community involvement
5. More local/regional providing of help to the poor and disadvantaged (not so much always helping but genuine normal interaction with them)
6. I want to feel more part of the "family"; education for my children on social justice issues; guidance; hope; couples group/retreat
7. That the Fellowship re-locate to St. Peter at least occasionally, intermittently
8. Environmental stewardship and advocacy; combatting loneliness
9. Women's spirituality group that meets quarterly; Fellowship grows in numbers and has even greater impact in the community; continuation of circle suppers and auction; multi-generational movie nights with popcorn; large, active youth group that non UU youth are authorized to join
10. Adult programs/education; depression support group; examples of our spiritual practice
11. Empowerment of all in Mankato; sharing of experience and appreciation to ALL
12. Art projects; social justice talks; outreach; volunteer opportunities or news of; housing project; work with local schools to see what we can do for food insecurity
13. More visibility; more known in the community; more connection to those who need us
14. Get more folks involved in REACH
15. More supports for making individual connections
16. We are united, not uniform. Focus on the principles that unite us, celebrate and support the individual differences
17. Be a collective for the manifestation of our principles, mission, and living tradition; do we need a better focus on the this? Have we gotten too scattered?
18. More singing
19. More variety in ritual; less time in ritual; more informative; more dialogue
20. I want the passion and goodness we feel together each week to burst out of the doors of UUFM and to live out in the larger community. How do we reach more—do more—in the community and on a larger scale? How can my family be a part of it?
21. More opportunities for youth to volunteer in the community; being a voice, that all in the community recognize, when injustice occurs; opportunities for Adult Education, book studies, seminars; more families coming together, of all kinds; more diversity in our congregation; greater attendance at worship
22. Double member participation; middle school programming; "mission" trips; children's choir; larger choir; greater stewardship; advocate for better laws surrounding poverty, taxes, drugs, etc.
23. That we become an active beacon for: justice for all (anti-racism and anti-white supremacy, with lots of activity around this); a healthy planet

24. Visionary for the community—a known and respected resource at the forefront of positive change
25. Meetings at 9:00ish rather than after 12:00
26. Building a reputation/recognition of/identity in the community as “the church that . . .”—reaches out to address “injustice anywhere”; helps/encourages/supports you to explore/discern/be mindful of your beliefs, the truth of your life
27. That UUFM be more broadly known in the community; that we partner powerfully with other faiths in work for justice and equity
28. More solvency and more fun; more active in the Mankato area, outward-looking, broaden participation
29. Leadership that truly listens to concerns; leadership that respects diverse opinions, especially those that are opposing leadership's views and consensus; not domination by few; respect; not guilting or shaming; transparency and involvement in major decisions; nurturance
30. To be open to new ideas, and to open my mind to many
31. More emphasis on new leadership development
32. Fiscal responsibility
33. I want to become a leader in this community, a large and compassionate leader so that all who identify with our values will find their way home.
34. A brilliantly focused beam of energy, love, and compassion that forms community here and outside these walls that promotes justice for all
35. Dinners; grief group; widows' group; parents' group; intergenerational connections; inspiration to continue through the tough times

What will I do to make the dream possible?

1. I can volunteer time and creative ideas toward radical hospitality (name given)
2. A religious/spirituality art wall project; youth program in parking lot; healing spirituality; hope punk art project (name given)
3. Intentional giving: dollars, support, time
4. Anything—work by donating time; organize; have an open mind
5. Participate
6. Volunteer when I can for food and greeting; teach youth and RE periodically; as my time permits, help plan and implement groups or events
7. Stay in relationship with this community and not shrink into the solitude of fear and depression
8. Daily prayer; invite others; show appreciation; listen; learn; participation
9. To invest into my talents and my strength to push through resistance, no matter what form, so I can make this world “another world”
10. Offer time, skills, friendship, and dollars
11. Spread our mission
12. Service when and where I can; continue reflection on what we are about; keeping an open mind to the differences among us
13. Continue committee work despite discouragements (or should I take a break?); continue to speak up about problems, challenges, or failures to uphold our stated values, in spite of sniping and name-calling by others?
14. Join a committee

15. Be more congruent. Cooperate with you! This is an excellent method to understand. Today and in the future, we die slow in our instant of life.
16. To bring our vision and mission wider and broader, I commit to spreading the word one person and conversation at a time; I will commit to showing up and helping organize larger projects and initiatives; I commit to being here each week for the life and community here at UUFM and to welcoming our visitors
17. I will give more financially; I will continue to teach my children to love and serve joyfully; I will attend worship more often and also functions and opportunities that the congregation provides; I will work harder to seek justice for those in our community
18. Help design outreach plan; volunteer for social justice committee; write and speak about economic justice
19. Give my presence, listening and discourse
20. Time, talent, and treasure; mindful awareness/openness to possibilities as they arise; carrying ladder to the moon with rungs from many people
21. Pay attention; be open; know when to seize the day
22. Keep on working; more energy; find ways to kindly encourage others
23. To be myself and have that be enough; also, to open my heart to all (PS: they deserve it!)
24. I am receding from involvement due to past experiences here. Nevertheless, I continue to contribute—financially and with work tasks or to meet needs here—but my involvement and participation is limited.
25. Try to get better acquainted with newer members
26. Remain ready to respond to needs; bring others into a safe space and unload their burdens; to speak in the larger Mankato community of our values and identity
27. My hands did by my heart forge partnerships big and small with others to bring about justice in our world; to help financially and with my energies and talents
28. I will start a grief group for widows and kids and anyone else in our church and also welcoming to the community
29. I promise to read and to participate in our activities involving justice (especially racial justice) for all and a healthy planet in our building and larger community. This commitment helps me be a more compassionate and kind and awake person