

Hanna First United Church

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March 5th, 2018

Dear Members & Friends of First United Church,

The call of a new minister is a critical event in the life of a congregation. **As our active congregation becomes smaller, our volunteer base and donations of time and money continues to shrink as well.** Fewer young families and people are attending our church. Without the financial support of the Centre Street Thrift store, and without more members, our sustainability as a church is at risk. It is now more important than ever to discern your gifts and the ways in which you would like to help your community of faith. **How do you envision the life of Hanna First United Church in the future, and the needs for new ministry personnel** in a church that has changed significantly as culture and community life varies dramatically from “the way things used to be”? To assist the members of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee in our search for a new minister, we need your input to help our committee determine the needs and priorities we have for our future ministry at First United Church.

We have tried to make the survey easy to fill in and take as little time as possible. We ask that each member in a family complete the survey questionnaire, as every person's comments and views are important, regardless of their age, and completing the survey ensures that your views have been heard, giving us an understanding of how to move forward. Your responses shall remain anonymous, so we ask that you be truly honest in your answers and comments. It is important for everyone to participate, **as the results of this survey questionnaire will help to form the future of your church in this community**, so your thoughts and viewpoints need to be brought forth.

Please fill out the following survey questionnaire and return it to the church office by **Thursday, March 15th, 2018.**



Thank you for your cooperation in filling out this survey questionnaire. We hope that in addition to assisting your church, you find this process helpful in reflecting upon your own faith, the meaning of your church experience and your hopes for our future.

Paper copies of this survey are available at the church office, or it can be downloaded from our website.

Completed surveys can be dropped off at the church during regular office hours (Tuesday to Thursday, 9 AM to 1 PM), mailed back to us at the church address, or emailed to jiaux@telus.net

Each family member can also choose to complete this survey online by going to the following Survey Monkey website to complete your survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZJ7YQM9>

Your Church Participation

1. On average, how many times have you attended Sunday morning worship service during the past year?

none about once a month
 about once or twice about two or three times a month
 once or twice every 3 months four times a month or more

2. Is attending church a high priority for you? (please circle on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being high priority and 1 very low priority)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
LOW									HIGH
priority									priority

3. In thinking about what ORIGINALLY attracted you to this congregation, select from the list below those reasons that best match your reasons for originally coming. You may select more than one.

<input type="checkbox"/> the Minister <input type="checkbox"/> friends & family are here <input type="checkbox"/> the worship style <input type="checkbox"/> the church's reputation <input type="checkbox"/> inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> child & youth programs <input type="checkbox"/> the social outreach <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong sense of belonging <input type="checkbox"/> bible study / theological studies <input type="checkbox"/> the music program <input type="checkbox"/> First United Church feels like a family <input type="checkbox"/> adult education programs <input type="checkbox"/> it's a safe place to explore my faith <input type="checkbox"/> a good way to meet other people
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4. How do you FEEL when you are at First United Church? (please mark with a checkmark)

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I do not know
A strong sense of community					
Welcomed warmly					
An inviting place to come if I was new to church					

5. In thinking about what KEEPS you as part of this congregation, select from the list below those reasons that best match your reasons for coming. You may select more than one.

<input type="checkbox"/> the Minister <input type="checkbox"/> friends & family are here <input type="checkbox"/> the worship style <input type="checkbox"/> the church's reputation <input type="checkbox"/> inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> child & youth programs <input type="checkbox"/> the social outreach <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong sense of belonging <input type="checkbox"/> bible study / theological studies <input type="checkbox"/> the music program <input type="checkbox"/> First United Church feels like a family <input type="checkbox"/> adult education programs <input type="checkbox"/> it's a safe place to explore my faith <input type="checkbox"/> a good way to meet other people
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6. If church is NOT high on your priority, what is the reason why? Please be specific: _____
- _____
- _____

7. Do you feel that First United Church has value in our community? Yes No

TASKS OF THE CHURCH

Please respond to each item by indicating with a checkmark whether you feel your congregation needs to give it more emphasis; whether you are generally satisfied with your congregation's current performance of the task; or whether you feel the task currently receives too much emphasis.		Needs more emphasis	Very Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Received Too Much Emphasis
1	First United Church welcomes newcomers				
2	Providing fellowship opportunities for members to gather and visit one another (social events such as Coffee House & Movie Nights)				
3	Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God				
4	Offering worship that provides a meaningful experience of God & the Christian tradition				
5	Providing worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms				
6	Providing Christian education for children & youth (eg – confirmation classes, Sunday School, baptism, youth group)				
7	Providing Christian education programs for adults (eg – bible study / theological studies)				
8	Offering worship opportunities outside of Sunday morning services				
9	Sharing a minister with another United Church congregation				
10	Providing a caring ministry for the sick, shut-ins and the bereaved (Pastoral Care)				
11	Providing pastoral counselling to help members deal with personal problems				
12	People at First United Church are supportive of one another generally, and in times of crisis.				
13	Supporting the global mission of the United Church of Canada (Mission & Service/Outreach)				
14	Encouraging members to act on the relationship of the Christian faith to social, political, and economic issues				
15	Encouraging social action (eg – sponsoring a refugee family)				
16	Providing a teaching site for theological students & student minister interns				
17	Ability to reinvent church programs and ourselves				
18	Helping members understand their use of money, time and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship				
19	Participate in activities & programs with other local religious groups (eg – Hanna Ministerial Association)				
20	Expressing our denominational heritage and traditions				
21	We utilize our church building and facility well				

Overall, which ONE task does First United Church do **best?** # _____

Are there any other things you think we are doing well and want to mention here? _____

Worship Services

For you personally, how important are each of the following in the mix of qualities that make a good worship service?		Needs more emphasis	Very Satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Received Too Much Emphasis
1	Providing services that are inviting				
2	Providing time for members to greet one another				
3	Providing worship that is emotionally moving				
4	Providing worship that is intellectually challenging				
5	Attention given to sacraments (communion)				
6	Lay person participation in leading worship (eg – scripture readings & reading of prayers, etc)				
7	We have strong lay leaders in our congregation				
8	Focus on the Bible and its interpretation				
9	Focus on the spirituality of current issues				
10	Focus on story telling				
11	Use of prayer in which the entire congregation participates				
12	Use of inclusive, non-sexist language				
13	Use of creeds or statements of faith				
14	Silent prayer and meditation time				
15	Having a time during the Sunday service especially for children				
16	The music program supports our worship experience				
17	Use of new or unfamiliar hymns				
18	Use of contemporary worship styles, language and music				
19	Providing sensory complements to the worship setting (banners, candles, seasonal displays)				
20	Providing worship at times other than Sunday morning				
21	Consistent length of worship service (currently is 1 hour Sunday Service)				

22. List by # which THREE of the above elements are most important to you in Sunday worship:

24. What do you expect from a minister?

25. What services would you expect a minister to provide?

26. What would you do to support Hanna First United Church in a non-financial way? (eg – reading, greeting, counting offering, bringing snacks, join choir, etc)

TASKS & CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MINISTER

In your opinion, what importance would you place on each of these tasks / characteristics of a person who would be the minister of this church? Not every task can be the highest priority, and in reality probably only 3 or 4 can be. You may want to read the entire list, then go back and make your priority ranking.		Very high priority	High priority	Moderate priority	Low priority
1	Minister must be experienced in ministry				
2	Have a sense of humor and fun				
3	Have a warm, friendly personality				
4	Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons				
5	Strong worship leader with effective speaking skills				
6	Sermons that relate scripture to modern life and faith				
7	Planning and leading worship services that are sensitive to the needs of the congregation				
8	Reaches out to inactive members and adherents.				
9	Ability to work with variety of ages				
10	Ability to communicate clearly				
11	Visiting the sick, shut-in and bereaved (pastoral care)				
12	Visiting members in their homes				
13	Developing and supporting religious education programs for children and youth				
14	Developing and leading adult education programs (eg – bible study & theological studies)				
15	Pastoral counseling of members having personal, family and/or work related problems.				
16	Importance of involving the congregation in the planning and leadership of church programs and events				
17	Demonstrate a deep personal prayer life and faithfully believes in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and savior (ie – they live their faith 'in action' in their personal life)				
18	Emphasizing the spiritual development of members				
19	Providing administrative leadership for the congregation's ministry				
20	Participate in denominational activities beyond the local church, at the regional and national level (eg – Presbytery)				
21	Actively and visibly supporting the church's stewardship program				
22	Planning and leading a program of new member recruitment, and have the ability to attract new members / new families				
23	Bringing attention to social action and justice				
24	Support the world mission of the United Church of Canada				
25	Participating in local community activities, issues, celebrations				
26	Share the workload with church committees				

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – to what extent do you believe you would be prepared to support Hanna First United Church financially?

_____ Less than \$200 / year _____ \$1,000 - \$2,000 / year
 _____ \$200 - \$500 / year _____ over \$2,000 / year
 _____ \$500 - \$1,000 / year _____ Other Amount??

The Future of Hanna First United Church - please reflect on your vision for the future of Hanna First United Church, and tell us what are your dreams, desires, and wishes for the church over the next 5 years?

1. What things do you feel First United Church is doing well? Please be specific.

2. What things do you feel First United Church could be doing better? Please be specific.

3. What in your view attracts members to First United Church?

4. What in your view discourages new members from attending our congregation?

5. What activities do we not currently have that you would like to see offered in the future?

6. Do you have any further comments to share?

7. Have you in the past served on any church committees? Yes No

If you answered "Yes", which committee(s) did you serve on? _____

8. Would you consider participating or being on a church committee in the future? Yes No

Optional - please check the appropriate blanks that apply to you.

Member Male Age: over 65 50 – 65 35-50
 Non-member Female 20-35 15-20 under 15

Name (optional): _____ (please print) _____ (signature)

Do you wish to be contacted?? Yes No Contact Phone Number (optional): _____

☺ ~ ~ Thank you for your time in filling out this survey – it is very much appreciated! ~ ~ ☺