

Center for Spiritual Awakening Membership Survey 2010

1. How satisfied are you with the following aspect of Sunday service: The service overall

I would like the service to be more engaging of our whole being--invite us to participate in having an shared experience -feels like alot of passive sitting- listening to music and the message.

The talks and themes are great and everyone I talk to appears to be favorably impacted.

I like a service that gets to the heart of the subject fairly quickly.

I have not attended your church yet.

It would be nice if the minister could talk longer.

I love our opening and closing songs, Addison's participation, and the children's participation at closing circle. I get energized by our open participation and almost always bring back a gift from Rev Elizabeth's talk. I do hope we will read and work through a book together occasionally.

I am satisfied which is somewhere between very and somewhat

Love the sermons.

I am very satisfied with the new Minister and am ready for other parts of the service to improve. I feel strongly it is time to upgrade the music ministry. I believe David has done a wonderful job with serving CSA and we have done a wonderful job in serving him. I believe an improved music ministry will assist in making the community available to more people.

human yet strong in spiritual principle

I'm very, very glad to have Rev. Elizabeth here. I probably wouldn't have stayed around if she hadn't arrived. I was pretty close to giving up on it. I'm very grateful that the council went ahead with looking for a new minister even when everything wasn't really "ready" or so it seemed at the time.

I've not had the opportunity to attend a service yet. I'm originally from CSL, in Seattle, where I've been a member since Spring of 1999. I'm on your email list, because of my inquiry and asking to get emails. I'm living in Ocean Shores, currently, but had considered Lacey/Olympia area also. (Its still an option, at some point in the future. I have emailed the Prayer Shawl Ministry, for the option of joining the group, and contributing to the community; and I do hope to attend services 'sooner' than later, and perhaps the Prayer Shawl group. Thank you so much for all that you do. Its a boost to me, to know 'that you are there' even though I haven't attended service yet. Also, the listing of classes offered looks good; its one of the things about CSL in Seattle, that I appreciated so much. Best regards, Kathleen Lambert

I have moved some distance away, so I am now attending Unity, but I love to stay in touch. I move again and would then attend CSA again. I love you guys!

Rev. Elizabeth is a breath of fresh air! She is so grounded in Science of Mind and is human and real. As much as I enjoy her, am still interested in hearing from guest ministers, too.

I am outrageously satisfied and happy with the service.

I would change the announcements/meet and greet to be shorter or at the end -- they stop the flow of the service. I like the fact that we are done by 12 -- very respectful of time while still delivering a powerful message.

SO wonderful to have our own fulltime minister!

Rev. Elizabeth raises the bar every single Sunday. I am especially grateful for the length of her talks. She packs so much into 20 minutes. I have come to love her very dearly.

Since I'm a morning person, I'd really like a service that begins at 9am so that I have the rest of the day ahead of me to do various activities.

I find the new minister to be outstanding. Her talks are very compelling. I do not like to miss a Sunday.

Is always exactly what my soul needs. I love everything about it.

Summary:

In general, members are very satisfied (even outrageously happy) with the service, the Sunday talks and our new minister! Comments include: "Love you guys" and "Thank you so much." Congregation is grateful for a full time minister! Comments about Rev. Elizabeth:

- **A breath of fresh air! So grounded!**
- **Outstanding! Is human and real!**
- **Just what my soul needs!**
- **Raises the bar every Sunday!**
- **Talks are very compelling!**

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Suggestions for changes were given, but are incorporated in later questions.

2. How satisfied are you with the following aspect of Sunday service: 10:30 Meditation

I rarely attend

I rarely get to do the meditation but when I do, it's always a good experience. It is good to have different people, with their own individual styles, leading the meditation.

Have not attended.

I haven't made it to one yet, and am glad its offered.

I don't attend frequently because they don't really provide what I'm looking for in a meditation.

have not attended

satisfied

Meditation is often the most important part of the service for me. Sometimes the guided meditation is so brief when Barbara leads it that it is already over before I arrive in the sanctuary (within 5 minutes of the usual starting time), and I find that very disappointing.

I only went once, wasn't sure what to expect.

Noise out in the hall is a factor. Less distracting when music is playing.

sometimes its too guided

I rarely attend, though I usually like it when I'm there. It is distracting when people are coming in all the time and the noise from the lobby area is also distracting. I would prefer that we close the doors and keep them closed until the meditation is over, and that we have a quiet space where we could really go deep instead of dealing with all the noise.

Too loud in the lobby. Must be a better way to manage the happy people gathering in the lobby.

I personally like a quiet meditation and don't want to hear someone talking through the whole thing. I find it disruptive but really this is fine because I like to meditate alone for that reason. It's just a very personal thing to me.

Each practitioner brings their unique voice, and I always benefit from this time.

This probably can't be solved in the current location but the noise is a distraction.

No comment as have not experienced this as yet.

Must keep the noise in the lobby from interffering.

Too noisy in lobby during meditation

To much noise in the Lobby area.

I am so not a morning person and haven't ever made it to the meditation. The people who do come seem very satisfied with it. So "no opinion" for me is the right answer.

My preference is for a 'guided meditaiton'. I can 'sit in the silence' by myself at home.

Would like it to begin earlier in the morning, that's all.

I started coming to CSA because of the Meditation at 10:30 Keep it up.

n/a

I don't generally go to the meditation, but when I do, I thoroughly enjoy it.

I have not been there early enough to benefit by all of it.

Although I know effort is being made to have the lobby quiet during meditation, it doesn't seem fair either to have the noise or to make the other community members be quiet.

Summary:

Comments were varied. However all agree that there is too much noise in the lobby and it interferes with meditation.

Some like silent meditations, some prefer guided meditations. The variety in styles of the practitioners was appreciated.

Many stated that they hadn't attended or only attended a few times.

A couple of people said it was the most important part of the service.

3. How satisfied are you with the following aspect of Sunday service: Music

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Appreciate all the talent at CSA sharing their gifts -feels like we are being entertained much of the time. Would like music to engage US more -lyrics of songs we sing to bring us into communion with our souls and spirits vision for us and our community. Watch Agape Live and get an idea what they do to weave music and message into feeling of oneness and wholeness. Closing circle/song is great -need to say words are in bulletin or project on screen.

No complaints at all. I did use to enjoy the wide variety of guest musicians we had.

I love David, Kate and instrumentals (Barbara, Carol and more). Did not like the Christian emphasis with Joe.

The music is so eclectically wonderful- I would like to sing a complex hymn once in awhile.

Would like more variety.

We are very blessed! The music program is wonderful!

I love David Rhys-Johnson, Kate Vikstron and Marlin Ball-Brown. Would like to see more instruments up on stage on a regular basis like Genesis. A fuller sound. Would like to see varied music. The musicians Rev Elizabeth invited from Salt Lake City in May were fabulous. Enjoyed the call and response. Would like to see our singing more lively e.g, more lively selections. The holiday chorus was great. Would like to see that more often.

It's terrific - we are so blessed.

The piano genius man is amazing, a real gift to hear him play.

Music needs some oomph! Would like to see more variety/diversity. would like to see the addition of drums, guitar to background music (a band). Would like to see more guest musicians. Would like to hear more contemporary, upbeat music. Also more global music (raggae, African drumming, etc.) Need more contemporary music to attract younger people to CSA. The music we have attracts what we have- the over 50 crowd.

The music has become stale and could be so much more. Music shouldn't have to be hard. We just need more variety and more upbeat music...the kind that cracks hearts open and moves people to dance!

beautiful, wonderful, empowering, FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The music used to be much, much better. Nothing against the current musicians. It's just very dull right now where when we first started, it was much more lively and I looked forward to it.

I love that everyone that has a talent gets to share their musical skills with all of us. This is how I would like the rest of the community to feel to me, all of us sharing in all areas making our church a loving and pleasant place to be.

Red is great -- the bouncier the music the better for energy.

The music is wonderful. We are blessed to have such talented folks in our community.

I'd like more songs with all of us singing.

Depends. I love Redman. Didn't care for the fill-in, especially the Christian music.

David is amazing. Whenever he is there he makes a major contribution to the energy level. However, his off Sundays are sometimes just that...off. I want good music every Sunday. Think about people who come for the first time on an off Sunday. The energy level is just so different. More money needs to go into programs that work. Music works very well but only when David is there.

I enjoy the music selections and the substitutes.

I love watching and hearing David at the piano!

I want to be singing every song not being sung to. in my mind church is participatory and I go to performances and buy tickets when I want to be performed to. So I have been searching for a service that I can sing every song. I'd so love to stay with this community. Lets sing all songs together, its so very vital to the community.

The music is always truly amazing!

Would like to have a more global type program. Perhaps different visiting artists to mix up the feel.

Summary:

The majority of respondents love the music and love David, Kate, Marylin, Barbara, Carol, Michael and our choir! Many suggestions for improvements were given as well.

Specific comments about the music: Wonderful! Terrific! Empowering! Eclectic! Fun!

Comments about David: Piano genius man! Amazing! Poor when Red was gone!

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Some did feel music was dull, stale and in need of an upgrade.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Needs more oomph, more upbeat, more lively, bouncier, fuller sound
- Would like a variety of musicians- more guest musicians, more diverse, more global
- More instruments (drums, guitar)
- Congregation would like to be more engaged in the music
 - participate more - liked call and response
 - want to sing more songs and not be sung to as much
 - a request for more complex hymns
- Weave music and message into feeling of oneness and wholeness (like at Agape)
- Like closing song
- Would like variety of songs for opening song

4. How satisfied are you with the following aspect of Sunday service: Announcements

Communication 3 ways 3 time is rule of thumb to have members engage with what is the info we are sharing for them to take action on and co-create/commit to make things happen. Like to see announcements duplicated in print on website/bulletin not just spoken from podium-many do not attend every Sunday.

I like it when a variety of people do the announcements. It would be good if they said their names so that, particularly as we grow, newcomers will feel more connected.

It's good to hear what's going on and I like that council members present them as they become visible.

Not sure if there is a time appropriate for speaking from the pews. I think a quick cares and concerns moment would be nice but I may not be aware of an existing protocol for that in CSA.

They seem to take an inordinate amount of time out of the service as a whole.

Sometimes disjointed.

Would like individuals identified when mentioned. I don't know who some of the people are that are mentioned so I don't know how to make contact with them. Appreciate the brevity and succinctness.

Occasionally there is insufficient information about a topic

Good generally- sometimes the speaker is a little too informal and unprofessional. Mostly, they are short and sweet and to the point with a little humor thrown in now and then.

I like when they are brief and concise leaving more time for the Minister's message and the new music that is coming!

The business issues are quite controlled...congregation is on a need to know basis...means very little when there is no way to be a part...attending business meetings is waste of time...when only certain peoples voice matters...very little faith in that area... hmmm?

Some presenters are better than others. I would like to see the announcement information also provided in the week email news and/or posted on the web. If someone isn't there every single week, they can miss important information.

The announcements are important to keep everyone informed but again the same people doing the same task week after week annoys me. Can't really explain why except that I really feel that all members deserve the opportunity to serve, to try new things. That's not saying that they don't actually have the opportunity but I find some members to kinda be bullies and pouncers when it comes to volunteer work for the church and some I think might feel a bit intimidated by others. Just my observance.

Some announcement speakers are better organized and better in overall delivery

Needs to be brief but as complete as possible. The practice of announcing something and then directing people to the information or a contact person is very good. Saves time. Announcements should be (and usually are) done by people who can keep the energy level up.

Maybe it can't be avoided but they seem to stop the flow of the service

Perhaps could have copies of the announcements available in written form for people to peruse?

Maybe at the info table or on the bulletin board? Would be especially helpful for anyone coming in late

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or anyone with a hearing impairment.

Please ask Charles to record the announcements when he makes the CD. Those in children's church especially should hear them.

Information needs to be given to the Volunteers out front, so they know what is going on. No last minute info.

Could be shorter.

The council has done a great job on this. They keep the announcements short and to the point. And they have all come across as authentic and welcoming.

sometimes the announcer has a hard time sticking to the announcements.

It's always nice to know what's going on and it doesn't take much time to cover.

Summary:

Overall, respondents are satisfied with the announcements. They like the brevity of the announcements and the diversity of the announcers.

A few felt they stop the flow of service, are sometimes disjointed, and could be shorter.

Suggestions include:

- **Have Charles include announcements on CD recordings**
- **Inform those at info table of announcements (not at last minute)**
- **Invite more members of community to give announcements (share opportunities)**
- **Have speakers state their name and identify people they refer to in announcements**
- **Have announcements also available in written form**
- **Include a joys and concerns component**

5. How satisfied are you with the following aspect of Sunday service: Meet & Greet

Love seeing and hugging everyone AND this is taking too much time as we grow as a community. Also can make newcomers feel left out of the intimacy. Also suggest we move Meet & Greet to later in the service that can also help make it more comfortable for people to say hello after they have had a shared experience of the energy of spirit moving us into a place of oneness. See order of Service from Genesis Center-many of us have visited and brought back their visitor packet.

I think it is good when the suggestion: hug or handshake is made. It makes it more comfortable for the people who aren't yet into the hugging.

Yes, continue to work on shortening time.

I love name tags. Hated them when I was young. Now that I need help with names. I see them as a great mercy!

Meet and greet time should be shortened....

Seemed awkward in service at first. We do before and after. Shorter is better--greet neighbor?

Was difficult when I was a newcomer. Could be shortened. Maybe we could move it towards the end; have seen this done in other congregations.

I feel that this is not necessary. We already meet and greet before the service and after the service. Also, we have the "circle up".

Sometimes it's too much for someone who is in a quiet space, but would prefer too friendly to not enough.

Good time for those of us "oldies" to connect. But we need a better ending signal. Is a little too long. And I wonder how intimidating/uncomfortable it is for visitors. Is it negatively affecting our growth? Could we do it at the end of service- after circle?

Probably need to shorten it some to leave more room for the message and music. I believe that once the music is improved, people might be more apt to be hungry for the message and teachings, leaving the social time for after or before the service.

fun !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This is the most important part of our service - the chance to connect with others in our community. I wish it was longer and we had more time for connecting.

Your meet and greet time is too long and drawn out . People who want to meet and greet each other

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can do it before or after service, rather than using precious, sacred service time. If you insist on keeping it, I would prefer you keep it brief. Very brief. It does not ADD to your service, and it often frightens new people. Most people who are checking out a new religion generally don't want to see a bunch of people heading at them. There actually is a "fear factor" that needs to be acknowledged.

I do know meet and greet is uncomfortable for many, so I would gladly forego it if this would help retain new members.

I like the meet and greet but if I don't feel like standing I still feel forced to do so. I could take it or leave it.

Need to somehow say that everyone does not need to hug.

It seems like too much -- found it intimidating as a newcomer

Just the right length.

Not important to me. Could be done after service or before.

Music should call us back. There should be no music to start meet & greet

As much as I love it, I really think we need to shift to staying in place and just greeting people around us. We are trying so hard to grow and there are people who just don't want more than a quick handshake and greeting. When that isn't honored, many times they don't return. I am willing to make this shift, even if I love getting hugs.

the timing seems off, and I don't know when you would have it otherwise.

It seems to go on for longer than I'd like! short and sweet I say more hugging

I find it something of a waste of time.

The people that volunteer for these positions are kind and I always feel very welcome.

A bit much at times.

I think we should do away with it.

Summary:

The majority of the respondents love the Meet and Greet AND they think it is too long and needs to be shortened.

A few feel we should do away with it - not necessary, waste of time, could take or leave it, a bit much at times, everyone doesn't need to hug.

There was a concern for how it makes new people feel and a number of people said they would be willing to give it up to grow the community.

Some suggested putting it at the end of the service as the timing of it is off.

It was suggested to remember to emphasize handshakes are ok and sitting is an option as well.

Shorter, shorter, shorter.....just greet neighbor?

Other comments: "most important part of service", "more hugging", "fun!"

6. How satisfied are you with the following aspect of Sunday service: Spiritual Message

Rev Eliz is wonderful-especially enjoy when we are invited to really engage with the message in an active way. Like to see some talking points provided on a screen or in some handouts? also have a theme for the month or the season-perhaps read a book together and have small "study" grps gather during the week to deepen the message meaning in our lives.

!

Love, love, love the messages!!!!

Although sometimes too short. I like it when Rev. Libby gives personal examples to make the otherwise cerebral thoughts real and personal to me.

Sometimes, the message is just ok. But it's always good to hear it. Sometimes the message goes straight to my center.

I have the feeling that the message is being delivered THROUGH Rev. Libby...not BY her. Excellent.

Love the message and always communicated so well!

Satisfied. Rev. Elizabeth is warming up to us and becoming more lively. Enjoy energy and relevance in my spiritual message. Like to hear about Jesus referenced too. Was disappointed with Easter

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message.

Elizabeth is wonderful. She chooses excellent topics, states things very clearly and simply, and obviously feels them deeply.

the sermons are the juiciest part of service, what I look forward to with anticipation/expectation for spiritual guidance and reminders. Really meets a need for me.

Love the change in cadence of the minister. However, for me the messages have been too short, not enough meat, not deep enough. I personally benefit from personal examples, stories, metaphors to illustrate the message and keep my mind engaged. I am not an auditory person and stories and application examples help me to internalize the message.

SO happy to have the new Minister. I just love her consciousness...she is the embodiment of what Ernest Holmes was talking about!

Libby is GREAT!!

I'm really glad to have Rev. Elizabeth here. She is so much better than the previous ministers. I actually listen to her and learn something, which was not true before. I look forward to watching her grow and develop as she integrates into our community.

I really like the new minister, Libby. She's hip and sends a good message. I will come back.

Rev. Elizabeth is tremendous and inspirational!

I love having Rev. Elizabeth here. She is amazing, real, authentic and inspirational.

spot on

Our minister knows her Ernest Holmes!

Over the top satisfied. Amazed. In awe. Rev. Elizabeth's breadth and depth of knowledge have contributed so much already.

Rev Elizabeth has injected a new energy into the community, which I appreciate. I would like to hear more "Science of Mind" teaching/philosophy than other belief systems. We were, after all, founded by Earnest Holmes

I believe that the timing is not good and that it would be much better for all, especially newcomers to have it more toward the end of the service.

Outstanding!

I think Reverend Elizabeth O'day is AMAZING! I love hearing her speak and look forward to the message for the day.

It is very good because it hits the nail on the head when I need some answers to my needs.

Summary:

The community loves Rev. Elizabeth's spiritual messages! Responses were overwhelmingly positive! Here is a sampling of the comments:

- **Over the top. Amazed. In awe. Spot on.**
- **Message is being delivered THROUGH her, not by her.**
- **Love, love, love the messages. Outstanding!**
- **Goes straight to my center. Hits the nail on the head.**
- **So much better than previous ministers - actually listen and learn something.**
- **She is amazing, authentic and inspirational.**
- **Injected new energy into the community.**
- **Embodiment of what Ernest Holmes was talking about.**

Other comments:

- **Talks are too short.**
- **Like it when gives personal examples.**
- **Like stories and metaphors to illustrate the message.**
- **Was disappointed with Easter message. Like to hear Jesus referenced.**
- **Not enough meat, not deep enough.**
- **Would like more SOM teachings than other belief systems.**

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7-8. How satisfied are you with the following Practitioner services: Opening/Closing Prayers and Prayer Blasts

Like to see the practitioners and their role more visible and understood in our community. Have a separate table with their bios and explanation of what a practitioner does and what we believe about prayer w prayer requests etc. Make prayer as a spiritual practice more understood w books/ handouts etc. Prayer blasts happen in a very noisy part of the sanctuary-move them to a quiet place up front away from doors and all the noise of the hospitality activity. Describe more fully during announcements (minister or practitioner) including where to go when service is complete.

We need to be sure to mention the prayer blast opportunity at every service. And also clarify what it is and who/what practitioners are.

Our practitioners all have their own style- have not personally used them.

Simplicity of opening and closing prayers are beautiful. Prayer blasts are unique in my church experience and I am grateful for that offering.

Most opening/closing prayers are excellent...some seem to be too much from the head. I have only done one...it was GREAT. Hmmm, I think I should be doing this more often.

Don't know much about the prayer blasts and what that entails

Am more comfortable with some than others for prayer blasts. Satisfaction for prayer blasts and prayers depends upon individual Practitioners: personality type and experience. Feel more drawn to Susan and Abby due to their experience and style.

I have only used Prayer Blasts once, so I don't feel qualified to make any strong comment. That one time was helpful.

The depth and quality varies with who is doing it

Practitioners have varied styles and different levels of experience. Good, bad, who knows? Some practitioners are more in demand for prayer blasts than others. Need a system for those waiting for prayer blast to know when practitioner is free. As we grow, I wonder if one person doing prayer blasts is going to meet the needs of our members. Not sure members really understand what a prayer blast/prac session is.

I would like to see the Practitioners improve and upgrade their prayers as well. It feels like all of CSA is getting a tune-up! I would like to see lines for prayer blasts. It seems that people really don't know what a prayer blast is or what a practitioner is for that matter. Maybe their could be a spiritual treatment Sunday and some example "blasting" from the front of the room? I also think it would be good to start "cross pollinating" practitioners. There are practitioners close by that would be willing to come and serve occasionally.

I LOVE Susan and ABBEY!!.... I believe they are quite connected...not sure of the rest

A lot of people don't understand the role of the practitioners and/or don't use them for prayer blasts. It seems a shame since this is such a powerful presence that is not being well used (my opinion).

The practitioners are such a blessing to our church. They truly are the spiritual backbone of our community.

we are lucky to have such a devoted and talented group. I haven't done a prayer blast with each practitioner but the ones I have done were very good.

My choice would be for more quiet meditation and not so much visualization.

Try to get Ann A. to stop saying "hummm" between each part of her prayers

It can feel incomplete to lay yourself open and then have no follow-through. Perhaps practitioners could phone those they've connected with? To have access to a caring connection only at church seems incomplete.

Neutral. because I don't always make it into the sanctuary before the opening prayer

Have not used 'prayer blasts'

I love it all. The prayer blasts I have only done once and it was amazing. It's so nice to have a spiritual home.

We need to have the prayer blasts back to function. It has been omitted lately. It sure helps people when they need someone to talk to

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Summary:

Practitioners are perceived as a powerful presence and a blessing to our Center. Those who have had prayer blasts were very positive about the experience: Great! Amazing! Helpful!

Two statements reflect the majority of the comments:

- 1. The depth and quality of their services varies with who is doing it. Practitioners have different styles and different levels of experience.**
- 2. More education around the role of practitioner and the purpose/function of prayer blasts is needed. Their role could be better explained to the community. The availability of prayer blasts is not mentioned every service. A few didn't know what a prayer blast was.**

Suggestions for improvement:

- Move location of prayer blasts - too noisy being near the food table.**
- Have some follow through after prayer blast - have practitioner call person and check in**
- Have guest practitioners - invite licensed practitioners in area to serve**
- Have system to know when practitioner is available for prayer blast**
- Have written material about practitioner services and demonstrations of a prayer blast during service**

9-11. How satisfied are you with: Our Physical Space (NOVA); Our Leadership Team (Council); Our Children's Program

Nova is OK and we can co-create a better location. While we are at Nova utilize the space for what we wish to have happen- make some key strategic decision about best way to do that using talents of our community members. (best place for info table/hospitality etc etc) Invite everyone to move forward in the pews so our energy is not so scattered inside the sanctuary-when we get a NEW location use chairs and NOT pews so we have more options in designing events/services to invite more interaction in small circles of conversation. Breakout of paradigm of passive listening to the leader at the front.. Council members be more visible-have pictures on bulletin board/website - communicate more fully to the community what are policies of center and which council member is the contact person for what aspects of the center's functioning etc. Council create more ways to engage w community more frequently (monthly/quarterly heart to heart circle conversation?)

Of course having our won space would be desirable but we are making the absolute most of what we have. I don't know if there's a teen program waiting to happen.

Would like a kitchen and the ability to hold more classes/after service workshops, etc. Core council is awesome!!

I like the Nova space both for the atmosphere and the locality. I am thrilled by the children's curriculum. Don't know anything about the council.

Our physical space is great for us the majority of the time. But when we have a need for a larger meeting space with tables or something other than in the sanctuary, it is pretty limiting. Yet, our volunteers always manage to make the very most of the space that is appropriate for the meeting purpose.

I find NOVA rather dark and depressing. At times it dampens my mood. The entry area is better but too small and awkward for all we try to accomplish in the space. As we grow, we need to look at other configurations (if there are any!) to provide quality and complete information to members while still providing an eating area that isn't a logjam. It is a dilemma!

I have not personally used the Childrens Program, but everything I see and hear about it is good.

The space, in spite of its size, can feel dark, especially when the shades are down over the stained glass windows, and that is a little depressing to me

The space is nice, but there's something missing, not sure what it is.....

Could use a bigger lobby area. Nova meets our needs for now. Great leadership team/council! Great Children's Team leader and program!

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I like NOVA and it will be a great day when we have our own space! I love how the Council has morphed into a group of people that really love each other and love CSA. They are open, flexible and interested in deepening in spiritual mind principles....I like that! I'm thrilled with the improvements made to the Children's program. I've started referring more families!

Nova seems awfully expensive for the what we get....council seems controlling and manipulative...as I said, very little fatith there....I have to create that all is protected financially too don't I...I am told the childrens program is wonderful

I like the Nova School and the positive energy it has. I also would like us to have our "own" space some day. The current council is very dedicated and much more active and connected to the community than some of the past councils. It is not an easy job and probably not appreciated. I've never been on the council, just have some experience on other boards so know they are not easy jobs.

The room is somewhat dark. On sunny Sundays, I have to be outside, not in the low-light room.

I don't have any information to comment on the children's program

Lobby noise travels to meditation space.

we should as a community have fund raisers, etc. to make and save money for our own space. as far as the leadership team goes, I like some and others just seem to need to have some kind of control when in fact I feel it should be a team effort in all things for our community. It seems to be the same people always taking leadership rolls and then forcing their views on everyone else and pouting if they don't get their way. This is one of the reasons I don't come very often. It gets very tiring.

Glad we have a program but I don't have children.

Not sures were used as I did not partake in this portion of your services.

Right now, the space is a little too big for us. That will probably change ... but now we are quite spread apart.

The space is dark and the church in a box aspect can be difficult, but I probably wouldn't change until we can get our own place. I think the council has done a great job getting us this far and keeping us going -- they are a remarkable and dedicated group.

It is a big challenge to be a church in a box. Teamwork and communication are vital to success. We need our own space

Need more people to volunteer to help in Children's Church.

It will be better when we can buy our own space

No children to use the program.

not much experience with council or child program

What children's program?

hope there will be a program for older children...teens perhaps?

I like the Nova location. It is centrally located and is lovely inside. I have no knowledge on the leadership team or the children's program.

I cannot make an opinion. ...because I don't know.

I wish we could have our own space and not have to set things up every week. It would also be better if we were responsible for keeping it clean instead of having to clean up after NOVA each week.

Summary:

Overwhelming feeling about our Nova space is that it is OK for now until we co-create a better location. Nova space has its limitations but works for now. It is centrally located.

Other comments:

NOVA

Too dark and depressing. Lobby too small. Too expensive. No access during week. Kitchen, refrigerator would be nice. Have to clean up before service (Nova students). Have members move forward in pews so energy not so scattered.

Council

Community feels we have a great leadership team!

Remarkable and dedicated!

Council has morphed into a group who love each other and love CSA.

Open, flexible and interested in deepening in spiritual principles.

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Much more active and connected than past councils.

Have pictures of Council members and their roles on bulletin board and website.

Council could engage with community more - quarterly circle conversation.

One comment about council being controlling and manipulative.

Children's Program

Community thinks we have a wonderful Children's program. Very pleased with it.

Looking forward to a teen program.

12-15. How satisfied are you with the following opportunities: Classes/Spiritual Growth; Connecting with Each Other; Social Events; Community Outreach

Seems like we have classes that people enjoy and yet not regularly. Like to have more ways to connect around our spiritual growth-lots of social stuff is fun and we can use more balanced opportunities to deepen our practice of SOM way of life. Have no clarity what we do for outreach except interfaith membership? We do not have a calendar of events that is published way far out-for members or newcomers to have one source to learn what we are all about and what events are happening.

Haven't been involved very long

Short refresher courses in Foundations might be good for all.

More social events would be nice. The dinners are a great step. I'm not aware of any kind of regular outreach programs that are ongoing.

Classes are good-just need more options for classes, seminars and workshops-perhaps after service that way we are already there. We need community outreach- at this point there is none that I am aware of. Social events-picnit, concerts, how about a holiday party or simply more options.

I'd like to take classes- it looks as if they are offered once a year?

Looking forward to more classes.

would like more class opportunities that are less expensive and less time (3-5 weeks possibly).

Connecting can still be awkward. Social events are done as well as possible with a small congregation. We have a hard-working core group of people who seem to carry the ball most of the time. I'm not sure about what community outreach we have been involved in.

The basic class which I took was excellent. The dinners at peoples homes have been really wonderful. The Social Events have been plentiful and enjoyable. However, it would be nice if we had a facility where we could get together as a large group in our own facility without the restrictions on particular days and times like we have now at our current facility.

I am most interested in ways to get to know other members in more depth. The classes were good for that, and - it would be nice to have a way to develop deeper connections without having to pay for it.

CSA does excellent job connecting with each other.

Would like to see more small group/discussion group opportunities. Would like to see more opportunities for social gathrings

I would like to see more classes for people at all different levels of S.O.M. teachings i.e. practitioner training, introductory classes and higher level courses i.e. metaphysical bible. And would like to see teachers from the region come and do classes and/or combine local classes into more regional ones. I believe the teachings get stale with just two practitioners teaching. I would like to see more community outreach and believe that will happen now with the new ministry and stabalization of CSA.

don't know of any community outreach...haven't gone to classes...life is my teacher...classes are just finacial support which I think are too expensive

We don't have nearly enough classes or opportunities for people to connect with each other. I hope this will change with Rev. Elizabeth here now. I'd like other opportunities than just classes to connect with others - small groups in people's homes that are more than just one time. The dinner series was a good example for a one-time connection. The summer picnic at Kathy G's house is a relaxed way to interact and I hope we do that again this year.

Need to have more classes. On the website, I can see that there used to be MORE educational programming and we don't have that now.

what community outreach-participation in local events? Really? I've yet to witness that but this is another reason I don't come very often and may have missed something. Although I do remember the

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"high class yard sale". Again the bullies made a lot of people feel less than and unwelcome so...

Since I have not taken the Foundations class many of the classes have been closed to me. Finding 10 weeks to attend class is difficult. Would like some after church quick classes that all could attend.

I am new to the church and I would like to see an Introductory Class, something that is not as long in duration as the Foundations class. As someone new to the center and to Religious Science, I find the Foundations class to be a pretty major time commitment.

I would opt for more, shorter classes. It would be nice to have a regular refresher/intro to religious science. The classes I have taken have been very good. I liked the mini-workshops that we had when the candidates were at church.

Do we have community outreach at this time? What do we support in the community?

It is time for us to reach out to the community and serve in some capacity.

I especially like the fact that we have the dinners and other social events so that we can get to know each other at times other than Sunday

Classes can be pricey. Perhaps if they were held at participant's homes, rather than at a rented space, the level of involvement would go up and the message would be more recieved. Would like to see more classes, social groupings like game night, movie night with discussion, member skill workshops like photography or cooking, picnics in summer, plant swap dates, etc.

I believe we really need to reach out into our community. It will enrich us as individuals and as a community. As for social events, we need more. MORE!

Timing has kept me from making a better connection or attending classes. Thursday night is my 'open night' the rest are taken at least once a month.

I haven't participated so that's why I marked neutral.

what community outreach?

I do not attend for any of these reasons. I come for the Sunday meditation and lesson.

I have not taken any classes yet, though I look forward to beginning the Foundations class in September. I am just now starting to want to connect with others. It is a little uncomfortable for me, but that is due to my issues not the members. Everyone that I do speak to is kind and welcoming. I have not done any of the social events, but am thinking about going to one of the potlucks. I don't know anything about the community outreach, but it sounds interesting.

Haven't seen many spiritual growth classes offered. Connecting with each other seems to happen on a one-on-one basis more than other events.

We need a membership component to CSA. We need to know how many members do we have when we need to vote on somethings.

Summary:

Summary can be summarized in one word: More! More! More!

Comments:

- **More short term classes**
- **More Sunday afternoon workshops**
- **More ways to connect around our spiritual growth**
- **Small group meetings in people's homes**
- **More was to get to know others in depth - develop deeper connections (w/o paying for it)**
- **Have guest teachers or regional classes**
- **Offer classes for those at all levels of spiritual growth (beginner to advanced)**
- **More fun classes - tarot, cooking, photography, yoga,**
- **Classes are too expensive (a number of people stated this).**
- ❖ **Dinners were great and would like more social events.**
- ❖ **Events have been plentiful and enjoyable.**
- ❖ **Game night, movie nights,**
- ❖ **Calendar of events would be great.**
- **No community outreach now but would like opportunities to serve. It's time.**

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6-19. How well are we doing in the following areas: Welcoming Visitors/New Members/Each Other; Being Open and Inclusive; Internal Communication; Walking our Talk (Spiritual Practices)

Greeters are wonderful-Can improve lots with a better consistent way to followup w visitors, Have no clear membership plan or policies published. Better understanding /communication of what it takes and means to be a Member of CSA -not just during stewardship campaign but all year.(post of website-provide at info table etc etc) Communication can be streamlined and better-so everyone stays informed- website? e-news/ announcements? etc-Many do not know what/who/when and why we do what we do or don't do. We can use more reminders and methods to walk our talk- more clarity and teaching of our spiritual principles and practices. Get clear if we will be GREEN community-how much paper we will spend money on /waste will we generate???

i'd like to see more structure around zoning in on new people to make sure that they feel as comfortable as possible, both when they first arrive as well as immediately after the talk.

The newly formed communication team will be a valuable addition. Walking our talk kept CSA thriving and attracted a powerful minister- what's next?

It seems so important to me that we stay grounded in our spiritual principles while we are at NOVA before, during and after services. We or I could do better.

Walking our Talk is difficult to define and any negative response can be viewed as judging. I have encountered a small number of negative people but most people are warm and supportive. I'm not sure what the context for this question is: the spiritual message; people I talk to after the service; the meet and greet; what is the context?

Communication system among ourselves could be better- I know it is being addressed. Have seen times where Spiritual Principles are not being adhered to. Would like some guidance of what to do or say when I observe negative behaviors.

Not sure if there is follow-up with new members and/or visitors? If not, that would be good. I think we do well at being inclusive, there is always room for improvement in this area. Internal communication is getting much better. There is still a bit of negativity floating around. I would like to see more folks actively using the SOM principles i.e. prayer used before and after all meetings, gatherings, classes etc. And definitely helping one another to use it in our communications with one another.

I have described the details already

I think we have opportunities for improvements in all of these areas.

As in all communities some walk the talk and others are deceitful in that area or maybe they believe they're living it but...

Always room to improve, but I think the church does a better job than we sometimes give ourselves credit for. It might be good to have someone (or two) established members each week asked to connect with new people (plus the minister). Just to make sure they don't get lost in our shuffle. The fact we are around and growing is a pretty good demonstration of our spiritual principles). I think the church is poised for ever greater things.

"Faith is friendship" would indicate that those connections in depth and in fun could deffinitely strengthen us individually and as a group.

The not-so-well is being addressed by our new communications team. It will improve.

I am sure spiritual principles are being applied. I do not know people well enough to know they are 'walking their talk'.

All of the above seem to be very good in my opinion with what I have seen and experienced this far.

Summary:

Overall, we could do better in every area.

Specific comments:

- **Greeters are wonderful! But could have more structure around greeting process.**
- **Follow up with visitors.**
- **More communication around membership.**
- **Communication could be streamlined so everyone stays informed.**

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- **Internal communication is getting much better. There is still a bit of negativity around.**
- **Communications team is addressing the issue. It will improve.**
- ❖ **Walking our talk kept CSA thriving and attracted a powerful minister - what's next?**
- ❖ **As in all communities some walk the talk and others don't.**
- ❖ **Have seen times when spiritual principles have not been adhered to.**
- ❖ **Most people supportive and positive.**
 - **Could use more reminders and methods to walk our talk.**
 - **Would like some guidance as to what to do or way when observe negative behaviors.**
- ✓ **Always room to improve, but I think the church does a better job than we sometimes give ourselves credit for.**
- ✓ **I think the church is poised for ever greater things!**

20-21. How well informed do you feel about: CSA News and Events; Community Events

if I attend on Sundays-if not I am out of the loop.

I used to receive e-mails but I don't now. Terry says there is a problem with the programs

Announcements are my number 2 way of getting information.

communication around educational opportunities are poor. As I don't attend service with regularity, I would like to be informed by email, in advance (not 1 day before, like the last class), of any classes coming up.

It would be helpful to have a printed insert in the program with upcoming event info - it helps to have something written down to take home and put on calendar

Not a high priority right now. I believe this will get better with time especially as we grow.

There are a lot of things that are only announced on Sunday. If someone misses a particular day, then they miss out. More should be included in the weekly email news. I'd like to see whatever is announced on the podium be also sent out and/or posted on the website and/or on the Facebook page - someplace where everyone can see or read about it.

Please see my note above, in answer #1

I've asked twice to receive e-notification of women's circle but since the person in charge of that isn't walking her talk I have yet to get it. I have to rely on other's to let me know when it is and what the topic is.

Between the announcements, enews, bulletin board, and info table I think the information is there.

Need more through information available. What is happening? When? How or who to contact.

Information needs to be printed as well as verbal.

We should have a more active part in the community - especially interfaith works. Should be a report at least monthly with areas for volunteers stated.

Not sure what the difference is here? What/which community events?

This is what is covered at the beginning of the service, correct? If so, then great because basic info is put out and if folks are interested in learning more then they are guided to the correct person who knows the facts.

Summary:

In general, we do a good job of communicating on Sundays, but if we don't attend service, information is not easy to access.

Comments include:

- **Information needs to be in written form (printed insert) so can take home and put in calendar as well as in e-newsletter, website and Facebook.**
- **Specific information about classes and women's circle not reliable (not put on list, not sent information in timely manner).**
- **Problems receiving e-newsletter.**

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- **Should take more active part in community - especially Interfaith Works**

22. Regarding communication, what means of communication works best for you?

No comments provided

23. Our National Center now calls itself the United Centers for Spiritual Living. How do you feel about changing/keeping our name? Statements below were listed in "Other" category.

Explore what name fits us NOW- and find a way to define us as part of United Center for Spiritual Living, Olympia WA

I don't know enough about the implications for name change to be commenting.

Would like to be connected with United Centers for Spiritual Living.

I'm assuming if we used the second one it would be, Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia

We are always awakening to some part of ourselves

Although it might seem I'd be partial to the name 'Center For Spiritual Living' for obvious reasons; I've always found the name 'Center for Spiritual Awakening' awkward. (The term reminds me of things 'outdated', wu wu, and/or 'old hippie - new age' terminology. Also, I think of 'older people' who might be interested in attending, but the name 'Awakening' might be a turn off. Also, if you (CSA) is affiliated with 'the mother church' (so to speak) it would be better (I think) to have the same name; i.e. - 'Awakening' makes me wonder if you are connected/affiliated with the main CSL. Thks.

I always liked Religious Science best.

Center for Spiritual Living, Olympia

First we wake, then we live. Where are we? What are we doing?

Do NOT do #3. It's WAY too clumsy, and no one will ever remember it.

While I understand the need to associate with the larger group (CSL), I am wary of losing the "Science of Mind" connection. When it was United Church of Religious Science and International Church of Religious Science, the connection was to "Religious Science" and it was clearly stated. "Center for..." can be a drug/alcohol rehab center (got a phone call like that once). Since I appear to be on the minority side of that comment, I think 'Center for Spiritual Awakening, a Center for Spiritual Living' is appropriate and may be the best choice, just as other spiritual/religious beliefs separate their parishes by calling them "St John's (Lutheran/Catholic/etc) Church"

I have no preference.

I like living includes all the other ideas

Names only label you. I do not think it matters.

I like the last one because I feel that it covers it all.

Summary:

Majority of community members in favor of being affiliated with our mother church and changing name to Center for Spiritual Living.

- **Comments included pros and cons for all three.**
- **Some felt the word Awakening was considered awkward, wu-wu, outdated.**
- **A few prefer the old name of Church of Religious Science**
- **Third option is too long and clumsy.**
- **Explore what name fits us NOW - Awake, Living, ?**

24. How would you prefer to gain more knowledge of spiritual principles/practices? How likely would you be to participate in the following? Check all that apply. Statements below were listed in "Other" category.

Growing and sustaining a thriving spiritual community happens in small group interactions within the larger community. Being in community supports our evolution. – Like to create many small circles – work teams getting things done and heart to heart conversation circles for deepening our connections and spiritual practices.

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Mastermind groups and/or workshop/classes with other practitioners and ministers in the region. RIGHT ON TO TOURS to sacred sites!

HElping in the community

I like to travel and used to do it more; hoping to do it more in the future, though not with CSA/CSL. I have traveled with other groups that are much deeper than what we have here.

I've taken all the 'core classes'; and so enjoyed to variety of class offerings offered at CSL in Seattle. Of particular interest (and support) were 'Grief and Loss; and financial prosperity classes; Bible study type classes were really good too (with Rev. Michael Bogar).

It would help to know what the availability of practitioners is outside of prayer blasts. Do they take appointments, is there a charge, etc. I don't think this is publicized.

Yeah!

Don't know. Depends on my schedule when I'm in town.

Occasional Sunday workshops

spiritual game night/ movie night

Right now none of the above. Been there done that.

Summary:

Responses were similar to comments regarding opportunities for spiritual growth.

Responses included:

Small group discussions, Sunday workshops, practitioner sessions (how?), a variety of class offerings, and spiritual movie and game nights. One particularly liked the idea of Spiritual Tours. A few weren't interested in any of the options.

25. After rent, the minister's salary and tithing to our national center, how do you think our remaining resources should be spent? Rank order by percentage where you would put the additional resources. Amounts should total 100. Amounts below were listed in "Other" category, and the two designations were taken from comments from other questions that allowed free flow text.

10 - Outreach

0

10

16

15

10

13

20

10 - Savings for future capital acquisition

Summary:

26. What faith traditions are you drawn to or would like more information about? Check all that apply. Statements below were listed in "Other" category.

I find all faith traditions interesting- especially if universality of the basic concepts (truths) are pointed out.

I think it is important that we understand the common connection that we share...that is what UCSL is about. That is what has drawn me to our Center.

Probably all or none. it is the truth, the core of similarity in all faiths that interests me--writings spiritual practices, stories.

Sufi

Sufi (part of Islam)

Shamanism - connecting with Spirit through Nature. I'm really open to them all. What I don't like is trying to teach all things to all people, the teachings become diluted and lacking passion.

I'm interested in all types of faiths and traditions.

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Yoga knowledge and philosophy. I don't think it is a religion, but it does discuss and respect the divine nature of things. The only reason I didn't mention Christianity is that I already know about it.

I don't know what wiccan is, but I would like to learn.

Aboriginal Australian, Polynesian Islands

Goddess...sacred feminine

All faiths.

I have read or studied all of the above. What I would like to hear on Sundays is how SoM is the fruition of the various beliefs and how most of the above contributed (in an affirmative way) to the advancement of the individual's spiritual unfoldment.

Paganism

Taoism

I think it all applies. I feel that Reverend O'day does a good job at incorporating different faiths.

I am strickly Science of Mind with diversity.

A Course in Miracles

Summary:

Most common response was an interest in the common truths among all Faith traditions.

Other faith traditions mentioned:

- **Sufi**
- **Paganism**
- **Taoism**
- **Goddess, Sacred feminine**
- **Aboriginal Australian, Polynesian Islands**
- **Shamanism**
- **Course in Miracles**
- **Yoga**

It was felt that Rev. Elizabeth does a good job at incorporating different faiths.

27. How often would you say that you experience manifestations of your prayers/intentions?

No comments provided

28. What would the perfect size spiritual community be to you?

The Sky's the Limit!

Actually, whatever size we are is the "Perfect" size :)

Every size is the perfect size when it comes through the manifestation of our Center's vision...it may not be perfect for each member, but it will be perfect for where Spirit is leading us. I think it is important that we are open to whatever comes.

What ever size we are or become will work for me.

not having experienced a larger community with this spiritual path, I'm not certain what large would look like but I'd sure like to give it a try!

For me, the measure of a successful church community is in the depth and quality of the relationships, much more than in the number of members

Any size is great as long as the spiritual leadership continues to mature and deepen in spiritual principles and practices in order to accommodate a larger and healthy community. As the congregation grows, the practitioner body will need to grow along with it.

I didn't choose because I don't know what is "perfect" for CSA - I've been part of very large communities and small communities. They each have their benefits and down sides.

I enjoyed the size of CSL in Seattle, although the large numbers (of people) had its complications; such as enough seating in church sometimes, etc.

A lt of people...many hands make light work. But I don't know what the top number would be.

I guess I would like to see more paying "members." It's a numbers game -- and if only a certain

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percentage of attendees ever actually make a pledge, then we need more attendees to hit a reasonable ratio of donors.

how could it possibly be too big?

Size matters less than feeling you are a part of something and contributing.

The more the merrier. I don't care, as long as we continue to live by the principles, and drag everyone else along, screaming and kicking.

Whatever.

I could go higher but only if there are very strong small group ministries in place.

I think the perfect size community is one that continues to grow and participate spiritually, financially, and physically (blossoming spiritually, are generous with their resources, and attend services and functions regularly). It takes an inspired idea, an inspiring leader, a supportive board and staff all dedicated to the 'inspired idea'. The size of the community will depend on how the idea is presented and the leadership team expresses it in their own life, rather than how other personal beliefs (see Q-16) can be brought to the fore. My experience is that below 125-150 members, the 'team' is overworked with not enough reward, and, unless they stay focused, over 1,000 becomes chaotic. I enjoy people. Larger groups give more sub-groups to explore my other interests with.

This was a hard question to answer. Even when there are 500 folks, the numbers drop away given specific activities or interests like a Women's Retreat or Spiritual Tour. So the ideal # is hard to say.

Size is not important. Those drawn to this ministry are here by divine appointment.

I'm not sure how to answer this. I guess it would be however many people are involved would be the perfect size.

we grow our church large enough to have a building of our own.

Summary:

Comments can best be summarized by: Size Doesn't Matter!

Members voiced that what matters is:

- **The depth and quality of the relationships**
- **The feeling of being part of something and contributing**
- **Spiritual leadership that matures and deepens in spiritual principles**
- **Strong group ministries in place**
- **Growing spiritually, financially and physically**

Other comments:

- **Large enough to have a building of our own.**
- **The more the merrier**
- **Open to whatever comes**
- **Whatever size we are is the perfect size!**
- **My experience is that < 150 members the team is overworked and above 1000 is chaotic**

29. What are your favorite things here? What keeps you coming back? What are we doing well?

Friendly, open and inclusive-high energy and fun. Willingness to experiment and discover what works. Lots of talented committed people on the path giving of their time talent and treasure! A place to grow as an individual and part of a collective co-creating a shared future in community.

It is a relief to be with a group of people who acknowledge that the Source is present in us, without a fear agenda. I look forward to learning how to accept and apply the practice.

Spiritual teachings, unconditional love, community.

The talks. The comraderie. Feeling of belonging. How great I feel when I leave no matter how awful I felt when I arrived. The amazing people.

The people, the message, the music.

Acceptance, being welcomed, not being required to believe in anyone else going to Hell....

Community...we are a family who give and receive love and support for our challenges and

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celebrations, who incorporate our spiritual practices to manifest that which we are co-creating through Spirit, through one another. I love the unfolding of our vision. I love the lessons I am experiencing. I love our family. What we are doing well is empowering one another in our spiritual practices through our community co-creation process. We are seeing the Truth of one another and opening to our enormous potential through Spirit.

classes, women's circle, other social opportunities outside of Sunday service

The opportunity to keep learning and deepening myself spiritually and practicing my beliefs openly in a community of beautiful people. The love and joy at CSA on Sunday's fill me up for the week.

The message and the beliefs: SOM principles resonate with me. This is my home; the first place I ever found that supported what I already believed but didn't know it could actually exist in one place. I feel safe at the Center for Spiritual Awakening.

The people, message and music

The freedom to believe what I want - drawing from any religion or philosophic line of thought. Being able to socialize with many people with varied beliefs - not all channelled by very fixed dogma.

Excellent sermons - particularly since Elizabeth arrived Our excellent music program

guided meditations, great music thoughtful talks friendly people good food a generally open, welcoming and inclusive, rather than exclusive group of people amazingly beautiful altars !

Sunday sermons Piano-player

The people! I'm coming for the human connection- the Meet and Greet, the Circle and socializing afterwards. And I'm coming for the service to others.

I keep coming back because I love the principles of Science of Mind and I love contributing to people's spiritual growth and practices. I also love the tenacity of this community! And I love that it is local. I can feel the love in the room and that feels good!! I LOVE hearing the CSA choir sing...very fun and festive!! I like all the smiles and hugs (and good food too!). It helps me to believe in the health of the community when I see the Council so happy in their roles and with each other.

Abbey

What keeps me coming: this is part of my "tribe" - my way of connecting with a community of like-minded people. "Church" is a way to connect with others, not an end-all unto itself (my opinion). I'm not what I would consider a "church" person, so I put up with the church aspect in order to get what I want, which is the community connection. I like the Women's group, though it seems to have lost focus recently. I've heard the men's group died; that's too bad. And, the teen group seems to have died also.

As mentioned, I haven't attended CSA yet; but I've enjoyed hearing news, and checking out the website often, to see what's new.

When I attended, it was the music.

1 - The feeling of community 2 - The strong connection between the staff and their willingness to do whatever it takes to succeed 2 - Our awesome new minister - she's the frosting on the cake

The main weekly sermon. The opportunity to learn about Science of Mind. Friendly and open ... easy to make friends. Good parking.

The sincere love that some of the members show, the message, the feeling that this is the spiritual place for me, the acceptance by the truly spiritually living folks.

Meditations and messages from minister. Also the music is often exceptional.

Friendly people, positive message, openness to all spiritual philosophies, ability to maintain my own view of spirituality without conflict.

Authentic caring and warmth, openness and acceptance of all. Fun, heartfelt joy and spiritual inspiration in every service. Doing all of the above well.

I love the people. I love the guided meditations during the service. I have learned a great deal. The education component is excellent ... I would like to do more. The welcoming is done extremely well. The gratitude to participants and volunteers is well done. The dinners for 8 are great. I would like to do them twice per year.

I really enjoy the prayer and meditation, as well as the messages that Elizabeth delivers. I feel like it's one hour a week when I am truly mindful of my spirituality. I like the people I have met, all have been open and friendly.

Love the message, the music and the people.

piano player, meditation

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The people, the message, the connections.

The whole spiritual setting with the prayers, music and great message.

Hugs

Positive empowering message.

The close knit community

The people are great. The message is important. The spiritual/attitudinal support is essential.

The thought put in to the service message and how it is usefull to everyone is great. I also like meditations with everyone.

Rev. Elizabeth David Rhys-Johnson So many people I have come to love. Enriching, relavent talks. Hospitality. Social events.

Rev Elizabeth brought a whole new energy to the "Center" and I would not want her to become routine nor lose the philosophy of Science of Mind from her talks. I am of the opinion that 'how to appreciate SOM more" ought to be the background theme for some of the talks, no matter how it is presented. I am attracted to the philosophy because it works, not because it's a great theory and sounds good. Rev Elizabeth revitalized that with her enthusiasm for SOM.

Providing acceptance, joy and loving kindness.

The MUSIC!! , Meditation, the Minister's Message, women's circle, knitters group (which I haven't gotten involved with yet).

I'm not coming back...

Music and the messages. I love to sing and participate. Want more of both.

Meditation and message.

community, joy, love, hugs, beauty, laughter, wisdom, music, love, heart, empowerment, education, love, patience, healthy support, did I say love?

I love the messages. When I have times that I am gone for extended periods, I always feel welcome back and don't feel like people are pushing me to explain myself as to where I have been. That would be the sense of unconditional acceptance I feel.

I come back because I am striving to be a improved mediphyscian. It is a life long study. There us always a new facet to our knowing the TRUTH.

Summary:

They were expressed in a number of ways. But essentially it is the LOVE and JOY that keeps us here. Comments can be summed up in three phrases:

- **It's the people! The feeling of community, family, home, acceptance, belonging love and of course the hugs keeps people coming back!**
- **It's the Spiritual Message and Rev. Elizabeth (she's the frosting on the cake) that are the community's favorite things.**
- **It's the Music and David we love.**

The Spiritual support and deepening of spiritual principles was also voiced as a favorite.

This was a powerful quote that is worth repeating:

"What we are doing well is empowering one another in our spiritual practices through our community co-creation process. We are seeing the Truth of one another and opening to our enormous potential through Spirit."

30. If you could change anything about our Center, what would it be? Any creative ideas to make it even better? Anything we need to release and let go of?

Improve communication (internal and external) Make Visioning and Community Building a priority- Start a Visioning Core and Launch community heart to heart listening and conversation circles around the Sunday message to expand our connections, deepen our relationships and ground us in our spiritual practices.

An office for Elizabeth? I wanted to meet with her and she said there was no place to meet.

Our own space. Though NOVA is absolutely fine right now.

Guest minister/speakers with workshops after service. Once a month have a full lunch- hospitality potluck A rolling book store: books, magazines, CD's, jewelry, gretting cards, etc. Classes/workshops

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on fun topics...tarot, Shamanism, homeopathy, Joseph Campbell, healthy foods, etc.-not necessarily SOM classes- % of proceeds given back to CSA. Have members of community offer classes on fun topics of their area of interest and other members would enjoy attending.

Follow up on drop out members- people who have invested energy and time for awhile and then left. I think we are where we need to be at this time...it doesn't mean everything is perfect. I would love for us to have our own facility. Yet I think the time when that happens will make itself known to us...to pursue such a thing before the time is right could be unwise. What I think we need to release/let go of is anything that restricts our possibilities. We have a diverse community. As such, it is unlikely that we will all agree on what would make our Center "perfect" - so it is important to be open to what will move us to where Spirit would have us go...to listen to Spirit when co-creating our perfect Center, and not let our egos and preconceived ideas get in the way.

Sunday mornings don't work so well for me, as I am usually out late on Saturday nights. I wish there were more people in their 20-30's for me to connect with. As it is, I've made a lot of friends my parents' age and older.

Opportunities to reading or explore themes together or deepen practices together in a series.

Several times I've heard the story about Sue Oliver and what happened. This is ancient history to me and has negative connotations. I wish I'd never heard about it and hope newer people coming in aren't exposed to it. It appears to me that CSA is attracting more people and they will be our story going forward. There also seems to be a group of people who were kind of in charge back in the day and some of them appear to not want to let go of their perceived authority and let new people in. I believe our future is with a younger generation. We need to figure out how to attract and retain younger people. Expansion of our children's program would probably help, too. I would also change the name and the location. I support changing the name to Center for Spiritual Living because it ties us to a greater and larger group which I believe indicates stability and longevity.

Less restricted physical facilities. Do away with "Meet & Greet". I find it a bit disruptive in the middle of the service.

nothing specific comes to mind

Besides the music, I'd say more opportunities to share our gifts and talents with each other. As we grow, we need to create pathways for the new people to come forth and step into the limelight and show us how Spirit expresses through them! Some of us might need to step down and mentor others. Would like to see more congregant participation in services- inspirational readings, manifestations shared. Would like to see a non traditional service now and then- interactive service. Would like to see more movement and dancing! Would like to see more visual media- projector, visual images, short spiritual vignettes, etc.

I think I've made it clear by now that I would change the music! Music has a way of weaving Spirit in a profound way. I'm ready for some levity on Sunday! I think it's time to look at a higher and more professional quality of music. It has a strong tendency to attract more community members. Have speakers come from out of town and present seminars and/or workshops. Maybe have bigger named people that could be supported by the region (including concerts!). We could be co-hosting events at the WA Center etc. Have a visioning ministry...those that vision for Spirit's idea of where CSA is going.

I miss the inspirational messages we used to have where a variety of people could share something. I say, let it evolve - now that we have our own minister, we can start to really build a longer presence and stronger foundation for the long-term. We have exceptionally talented people in our community, with great spiritual depth. I'd like to see those used. Maybe this survey will help to draw that talent out. [Other comments given in response to the various survey questions.]

(Smile) I do miss CSL in Seattle. I moved away from Seattle, approximately two years ago (and before the new sanctuary was completed; and maybe that's just as well, as I REALLY enjoyed the (now) old sanctuary... with its wonderful windows and gardens as if right there along side seating, and the high loft affect and banners. Also, seating was comfortable in that the aisles (width and position, etc.) made it easy to get in and out, even over other people, etc.

Convince Nova to replace some of the window glass with clear glass to let more light in.

I would release the Meet & Greet time during the service. People have the opportunity to meet before the service, between the meditation and the service, after the service AND at your social time sharing food and drink. Meet and greet during the service should be eliminated or greatly reduced.

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As valuable as the "feminine principle" is in the CSA community and Science of Mind overall, I do sense that the more direct, linear, "masculine" ways of communicating are not appreciated or valued. We could be more welcoming of "other ways of knowing."

I think that the center would benefit from taking leadership from the unbending and give the truly spiritually living members a chance to show their stuff, their love for our community, to build on that love and strength.

I would be nice if people in the hallway would be quieter during meditation time before the service.

I would love to have a refrigerator to keep potluck items cold, especially during the summer. One less song after the sermon to make the service shorter. I could not answer the resource allocation question because I do not have any idea of how much money remains after paying the rent and minister. Music and the children's program are important but I have no idea of their financial requirement. Administrative overhead including copying and advertising need creative ideas if our budget is short. Food brings the group together and should be supported. I would prefer to bring something to drink rather than donate money.

Strengthen music program. Be more upbeat during offering.

Perhaps more quick-hitting classes ... 4 weeks instead of 10, for example. Have a small, simple copier available on site. They are pretty cheap. I would like to have a variety of opening songs... not always the same one, but several familiar ones rotating through.

More Religious Science educational opportunities, more classes.

It would be great to have our own space -- or at least some classroom space for workshops. Also would be great to have enough music budget for Red to have a rhythm section with him all the time -- really fill the space with the music.

I have only been to the center a few times, I am not well informed.

Better internal and external communication. A newsletter. making sure info is available to everyone on what we offer, an easy way to plug people in for volunteer opportunities. Empowering people to make decisions so they can act. Let go of any fear, any past events. get out of survival mode and thinking. Realize this is all new and go forward in quiet confidence, be open to everyone participating, everyone receiving the information. identify specific, plans of what we need, how to accomplish.

I am not comfortable with some traditions which use a lot of symbols and ceremonies. I don't care for saluting the directions, sprinkling charcoal, and other types of worshiping something outside of reaching within to gain knowledge, comfort, and guidance.

I don't care who said the Vision statement should only be two sentences, ours is run-on and sounds like it was written by someone who never heard of or saw a period, or doesn't like to take a breath when they are speaking because someone might interrupt them or get a word in edgewise, and it makes us seem like none of us has ever taken an English class, and it's the first impression a newcomer gets of us because it's right at the beginning of the service. See what I mean? It needs to be rewritten with periods.

we could really use a sign out front that says CSA, something of what we're about with meditation/service times.

Better communication between the board and the volunteers.

Invite guest to speak to the children who have experience teaching to children. Have more meditation practice with the children.

I think everything about the service is well-balanced now. More money to music program to be able to bring in excellent musicians when David is off. More social events. They fell off since the beginning of the year when the ministerial search began. We used to spend \$30 a week for the hospitality host of the week to spend on food. It would be nice to go back to covering some costs for there to be anchor food items. Maybe a couple of dozen bagels and cream cheese or something hot, for example. I like the array of food most Sundays, but there are times when it would be nice to have something we could count on. It can be very bad news to be at the end of the line and there is nothing left.

I will say that I look with amusement at the Feng Shui activities and decorations. Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese energy system used to explain things in a non-physical way. Dead plants are not energizing - quite the opposite. If energy is not alive and moving, it is draining. China has not had a philosopher like Confucius or LaoTse in centuries, and if you've been there, you know how depressed the energy is, compared to 'spiritual' spaces. I have watched people 'hold the space' and forget that they are there to hold the space "open at the top" (as Earnest put it) instead of static at a particular

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level. The service feels 'flat' when that (static) happens. The service is supposed to be a inspiring 'spiritual' experience, not an 'intellectual' one, and the difference is obvious (although perhaps not identified)

In general just release and let go of any and all beliefs that we must keep doing things or not do things because of what we have always done in the past. Keep ourselves always more open to trying new things that are suggested and doing away with things that no longer serve the current day needs of our present community. Be willing to change some of the content and order of presentation on some Sundays. Realize that it is not necessary to have the service exactly the same way every week. Change is good, interesting and exciting sometimes. If new things are tried and well received by the majority of the community then they could become a part of our service more often or even added in on a permanent basis to replace something the survey has shown is no longer as important to our present day community.

I would change the service start time from 11 am to 9am OR have two services one for the morning folk and one for those who like a later start time.

grounding. consistency. A place that really felt like family where I got an occasional call and people cared. A place that supported each other financially too. My business was suffering greatly and I couldn't pay bills, I quit tithing and no one contacted me to find out why and there was no forum to ask for help and when I'm sick, I've never gotten calls etc. There is not an effective way to communicate between each other. If I can't make something, such as one of the dinners, there was no way to reschedule with someone else. etc.

Love to have a community shout out time. Like a time the community can either vocally share what came up for them during the message or what challenges/blessings occurred for them. Love to sing once a month happy birthday to people with B-days. More involvement from me/us and less sitting and watching is my hearts desire.

Get your youth program going if you want to grow your church.

I would love some visioning about the future of CSA, where our next home, OUR HOME, will be. What do we all want?

I truly can't think of anything, but I am just now recently involved back in the community and I think everything is handled very well.

All is fine. We are growing one step at a time.

Summary:

A variety of suggestions for improvement. Here are the ones that weren't shared in previous questions. In no particular order:

- **A rolling bookstore**
- **An office for Elizabeth**
- **Sign Outside on Sundays (bigger, bolder, more details)**
- **Create a vision ministry**
- **Deepen practices through a talk series**
- **Monthly potluck lunches, birthday celebrations**
- **Some \$ for hospitality team to buy some staples on hand (for when food runs out)**
- **Dead flowers are not energizing (Feng Shui principle)**
- **Let go of stories from past - Sue Oliver**
- **Create new vision statement - current one is way to long**
- **Create a newsletter**
- **Attract more young adults (20-30 year olds)**
- **Follow up on drop out members**
- **Earlier service (for morning people)**
- **A time in the service to express joys, concerns, blessings, challenges**
- **More involvement of members in the service (reading of passage...)**
- **Change order of service**
- **Not comfortable with lots of symbols (directions, charcoal...)**

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- **Get a call when sick or quit tithing**
- **When people holding space forget, the energy goes flat**
- **Get Youth (teen) program**
- **Let go of survival thinking**
- **Go forward in quiet confidence**
- **Be open to Spirit and not let pre-conceived ideas get in way, let go of egos**

31. Anything else you want us to know? Anything else you're holding back from saying?

Like to invite our spiritual leader to share her vision for CSA and how she sees our community evolving based on her past -what will it mean to us to have a vision team and small work teams partnering w the Core Council etc etc. Explain her role, the Council's role and Paint the picture to inspire us for infinite possibilities to unfold. Learn and apply "best practices" for growing our community from other CSLs.

I would like Rev Libby to acknowledge, prior to the prosperity stewards coming forward, that it may not be our time to give but that we can energize the process with our thoughts. I think that this would help; new people feel really good. Also, acknowledging the courage it takes for new people to enter our community for the first time is wonderful.

I waiver in my feeling of connectedness with the CSA community. I resonate with the philosophy and have grown close to a few of the members, but overall, I'm not sure CSA is a perfect match for me. I feel inclined to see what else is out there for me in regards to spiritual community.

Well Ok then. The way we show up and how any one of us acts out at NOVA--gossiping, arguing, complaining, even subtly putting another down impacts my energy of us all. These are rare occurrence of course but impactful.

I did not answer the demographic data because I believe, in a congregation this size, that my anonymity will be lost. I have heard similar comments from several others.

?

I would prefer talk as the number one choice for getting information.

Now that I've taken all the classes and am grounded in the principles of SOM, I find that I'm not coming for spiritual fulfillment. I'm wondering how long that will sustain me. Can we have some variety in services and activities- talks for newcomers, advanced talks/activities, guest speakers, guest musicians

I just really look forward to the community deepening in SOM principles. It sometimes feel like people say they belong to a SOM community and they really don't know what that means. It's fine to belong to the community because it feels good..it's even better if there is an awareness of the "way of being" that can come from the SOM philosophy.

I'd like to see more small group activities - chances to get to know others in the community better. Perhaps a topic-focused group with a defined time span - weekly for a month or two at a time that could be renewed if the people involved feel drawn to continue. Someone should have proof-read the survey more carefully to fix the mistakes -- just so you know that I'm not holding back :)

It concerns me (a little bit) that CSA seems small (and may end of folding?) I can't tell for sure, if the size thing is a correct impression or not. Also, I appreciate the fact that it takes time to build a congregation. While the numbers of people at CSL in Seattle, were large, one advantage was that you could 'blend into the crowd' if you wanted to, and you knew that they were there for good, etc. - so to speak. (Yet, in all fairness, sometimes the large numbers were a bit much... and a 'cozier' (smaller) group of people would have been nice (and has their own benefits, etc.)

I stopped going to the center over a year ago. I am a founding member of CSA and have not been to the center since the new minister arrived. I hope things can change with strong leadership. The music program is half baked. A guest told me that the music sounded like a rehearsal instead of a performance and I agree. I am drawn to a strong message, vision lead leadership, classes and workshops and a fantastic music program. I am traveling north on Sundays for that combination.

I did not like the pressure to tithe ten percent. When you make \$100,000, you could still live nicely on \$90,000. But if your income is \$10,000, it is very uncomfortable to live on only \$9,000. Why not offer support for giving any percentage that works out well? Say three percent? Or five percent?

Connecting giving to receiving in any way will fulfill spiritual principles in my book. And it is kinder and

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more compassionate to your fixed income and low income members.

You're actually doing a great job ~ especially that "Buffy" who always makes the altar so fascinating and beautiful !

The website is embarrassing -- outdated information. Red fonts.

I am not a regular attendee. This has to do with me, not the organization.

When living up in the Seattle area I went to Kathianne's services. Her and that church are wonderful! She would get me everytime and the music and energy there is fantastic! I've been spoiled!

the guy that used to speak was not a good speaker

We need to have good communication internally and externally and we need to have good follow up and follow through. People need to be empowered to make decisions. Information needs to be distributed in a timely manner. We need to move forward in action. Explore new ways of doing tasks more effectively. Let go of attachment to what was and ease up on the cautious proceeding. Really, really practice and demonstrate and walk our talk.

nope, I'm not shy

nope

What, me hold something back?

I am glad Rev Elizabeth is with us. I had missed regular inspiration from others. I have been in the area for about 3 years and attended occasionally while the search was on, pretty regularly since Rev Elizabeth arrived.

No, because I've said all in the comments for #20.

see above. I've been with CSA 5 years and outside of me showing up on Sundays, there is no connection. I am leaving the church now.

lets dance and sing more more more please!!!!!!

Not a thing I always tell my truth. What is wrong with Amen? Look up the spiritual meaning of the word I think you will like it.

Nope.

Would it be outlandish to dress up for Church? How about one day a month or something? Just to be different. Sometimes, I think our society is overly casual. It would be neat to be able to have an occasion to dress up once in awhile.

Summary:

A Variety of responses. Here they are listed from positive to negative:

- **Let's dance and sing more!**
- **That "Buffy" who always makes the altars so fascinating!**
- **More small group activities.**
- **Coming regularly now that Rev. Elizabeth has arrived.**
- **Rev. Elizabeth is better than interim ministers.**
- **Learn and apply best practices from other CSL churches.**
- **Would it be outlandish to dress up one Sunday a month?**
- **Would like Elizabeth to share her vision with us.**
- **Would like Rev Libby to acknowledge that today may not be the day to give but can energize the process with our thoughts.**
- **What's wrong with Amen?**
- **Didn't fill out demographics because felt with community this size anonymity will be lost.**
- **The website is embarrassing.**
- **Do not like the pressure to tithe 10 per cent.**
- **Too small - came from CSL in Seattle**
- **People need to be empowered to make decisions**
- **Let go of attachment to past and ease up on the cautious proceeding.**
- **Gossiping, complaining, arguing rare but impactful when it occurs.**

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- Let's really, really practice and demonstrate and walk our talk.
- Certain people do all the stuff - and hard for others to break into circle (intimidating)
- Some members are bullies and pouncers when it comes to volunteer work.
- Go north on Sundays now - more energy, better music, strong leader
- Still looking for perfect match - like the philosophy but connection not quite there
- After 5 years at CSA there is no connection - I am leaving now.

32-36. Demographics questions - no comments requested nor provided.

37. If you have children (under 18), please indicate their ages. If you have grandchildren that you bring to our Center please indicate their ages. You may check more than one.

The parents of my grandkids do not approve of any "church" going form my grandchildren- maybe one day :)

NA

Would love to see a teen program.

I didn't list income since I'm currently getting unemployment benefits.

38. How did you hear about the Center for Spiritual Awakening? Statements below were listed in "Other" category.

on a bulletin board in Abby's office 5 years ago

Yellow pages or business listings in white pages.

Through a friend at a Solstice celebration.

A contact from CSL in Seattle.

And, through CSL in Seattle.

Was aware of center. Used internet to locate address.

sign out front

I probably looked for a listing on the international religious science website after I moved to Olympia in 2004.

Got a postcard when they moved to Nova.

SOM Magazine

50 years ago who knows.

It was a posting at the library bulletin board in Tumwater a couple years ago.

I can't remember, but I was there aat the Ramada Inn when I first heard about it

39. For marketing purposes, can you tell us what radio station(s) you listen to?

none

KPLU, KING-FM, KMTT

KXOT 91.7 or KPLU 88.5

NPR, 98.9, 96.1

King FM KPLU AM

104.5 FM - Covington

KMTN and KPLU

90.9; 94.5; 89.3; 88.5; 103.7

KGY, KUOW

none

96.1

KAOS The Mountain 103.7 NPR

98.1

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none. I couldn't even tell you when the last time I listened to a radio station.
Not sure of them by name, but 'country western'. (95.3; and 101.2)
NPR and that liberal am station out of Seattle
KPTK in Seattle (1090 AM)
96.1 - Olympia 145.9 - Covington
KUOW - 94.9 FM/1340 AM KOMO KQMV - movin' 92.5
none
KUOW, KPLU, KIRO
KIRO, NPR
AOL stations, especially New Age
106.9 FM
KPLU
98.1, 103.7, 107.7
KAOS, KRXY, KPLU
kaos, kplu, npr
NPR
Classic KING and NPR KPLU
KUOW, KWJZ
KVPR
102.9 92.5
KING FM
98.9
KPOJ (Portland) on line AM 1090 (Seattle) on line Mixx 96, in the car
KTTH, KVI, KWJZ, KITI, KELA, 60s-70s music
KJZ out of Seattle (soft jazz station) and NPR. (local)
KUOW
none
103.7 89.3
94.5 104.5 Seattle rock jazz and classical, I do not like country.
KUOW, KPLU, the mountain, KZOK,
96.1, 92.5, 94.5 really anything that the scan button lands on that sounds good at the time. Sorry I
can't be more helpful.
103.7 KMTT
AM KGY in Olympia

40. Just for fun, since we do so many potlucks - what is your favorite item to bring to a potluck?

gluten free
Roasted nut, hummus, bread.
Focaccia bread
4 bean salsa salad
all of the above
Drinks
an empty belly! If I baked (which I don't), I would bring gluten-free items. If I cooked, I would make sure there was protein on the table. Actually, I usually try and bring some kind of protein or vegetable (depends on what looks good at Top Foods deli).
It depends on what I feel is right at the time.
Regarding my answer to #15 above; I didn't know how to answer it, given the choices (and I tried to enter some language, but the system wouldn't take it). i.e. - I think all of the choices offered are important. I 'CSL' and saw (over the years) how all of these things helped to build the spiritual community that it was. The music really pulled me in sometimes too, even when maybe the message

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wouldn't 'touch me' as much; yet I appreciated all of things (choices) offered, because they touched so many, and offered the variety, etc.

I always bring something different.

I actually don't like to cook and would prefer to bring drinks.

any

I like green salads myself, and I like not to cook or transport hot stuff.

I also like to do desserts. We need to have a dessert auction to raise money and because it can be very fun.

What ever I am asked to bring.

we need labels for the dishes. Like gluten free. dairy free etc....

does not matter

Safeway artichoke dip!

There is a good salad made with a variety of peppers (orange, red, yellow), onion and black eyed peas with juice of 2 lemons, stevia and some olive oil. Really healthy and quite tasty.
