

# UPA Profile Survey

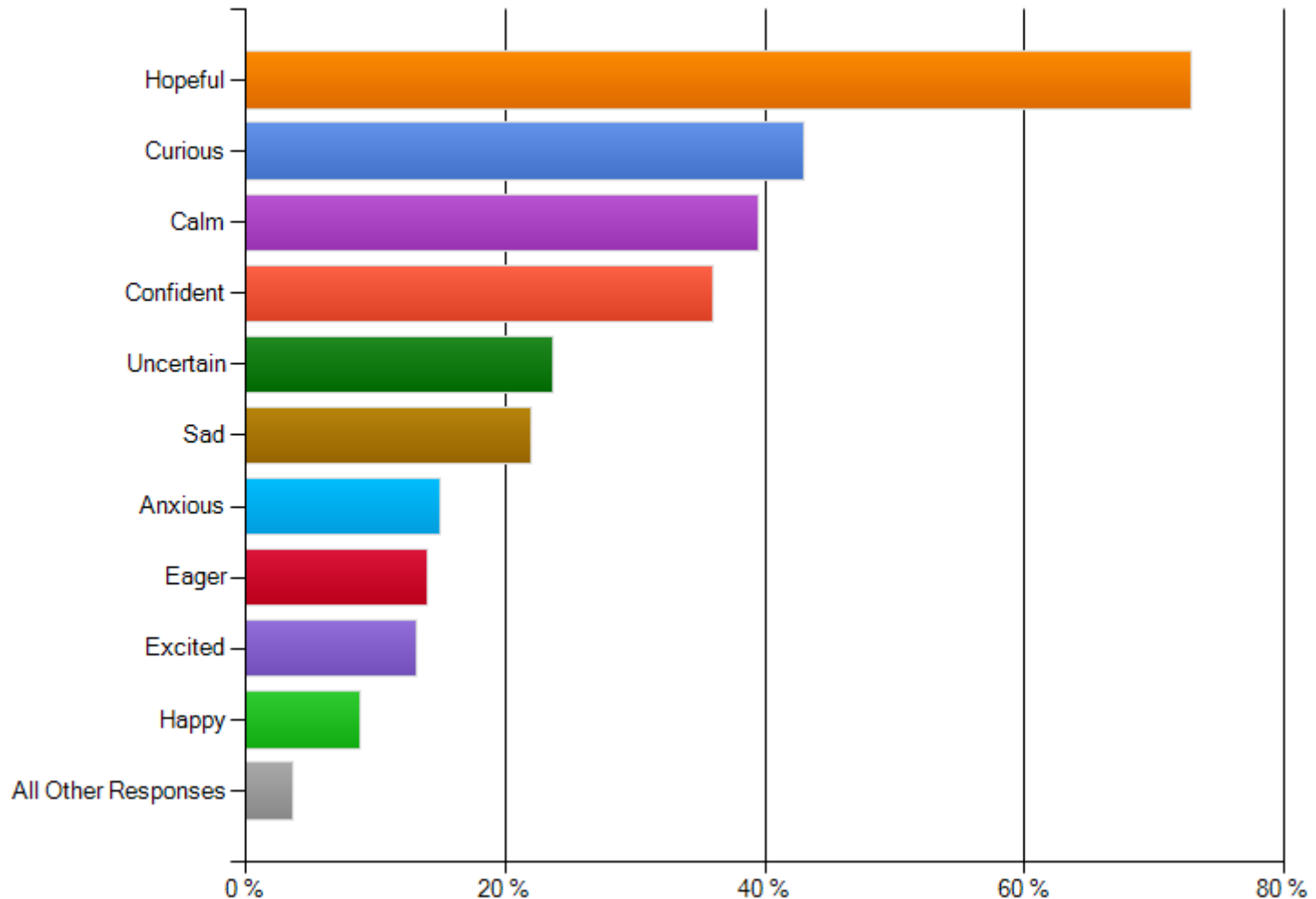
October 2011

# How We are Feeling

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As we enter this period of transition at the UPA, which of the following words best describe your feelings and emotions? (check all that apply)







# Prioritized Roles of Minister

Priorities for Minister Roles	
1.	<b>Preaching</b>
2.	Leading & Designing Worship
3.	Vision - Leading Congregation
4.	Spiritual Growth for Members
5.	Membership Growth
6.	Counseling
7.	Visitation (congregation & community)
8.	Youth Ministry (middle school/high school)
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9.	Children's Ministry (elementary school and younger)
10.	Hospital/Emergency Visitation
11.	Leading Staff
12.	Church Administration
13.	Outreach
14.	Teaching
15.	Stewardship
16.	Interfaith Participation
17.	Equipping Laity for Ministry

- “Preaching” is overwhelmingly Priority #1
- Priorities 2 through 4 are closely grouped
- The remaining are more evenly distributed

# Top 10 Issues Facing Church

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## 1. Membership Growth

- A notable 61% of respondents cited membership growth as a key issue
- Growth is viewed as being tied to other top issues (e.g. finances/budget, volunteer fatigue, building/grounds, etc.)
- A focus on growth of younger families was a common theme, as well as growth given the fact that while we have been fortunate to bring on many new families, we are also losing members due to age/illness, busy lifestyles that don't leave time for worship, disenfranchisement, and challenging economic times

## 2. Budget/Finances

- 37% of respondents indicated that our budget and finances are a top issue
- The comments focus primarily on the need for increasing stewardship, managing our finances wisely so we can remain vital for future generations, and concern over the challenge of generating enough support in the current economy
- Note – this is distinct from Outreach and Building/Grounds (which are listed as separate issues below)

## 3. Need to Continue Support of Diverse UPA Community

- 36% of respondents commented in some way about the diversity of the UPA community – including range of beliefs, varying ages, UMC/UCC denominations, Open & Affirming commitment – and the need for continued support of and encouragement to nurture that diversity.

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## 4. Desire to Find the Right Minister

- With 31% of the respondents noting that finding the right minister is a top issue, it is clear that the congregation is eager to find a minister with key qualifications and traits to meet the needs of the UPA community
- Traits noted include: excellent preacher, strong leader, offers spiritual support, positive, upbeat, modern, young, engaging, inspirational, smart

## 5. Building and Grounds

- 21% of respondents noted concerns around Building and Grounds – including the challenges surrounding 87/89 Grove St
- 87/89 Grove St was often noted as a drain not only on finances but also on human capital

## 6. Managing Outreach Budget

- Separate from general budget/finance concerns, 20% of respondents cited the Outreach Budget as a top issue
- As has been the case historically, there are strong beliefs on both sides of the issue – our need to maintain/grow the commitment and our need to reduce the commitment to sustain other needs of the church

# Top 10 Issues Facing Church

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## 7. Volunteer Fatigue

- Concern surrounding the potential for “volunteer fatigue” among key UPA members was noted by 19% of respondents
- The desire to spread tasks more evenly among members and reduce the reliance on the “same group” was made clear to avoid loss of members and allow for greater time for spiritual growth

## 8. Engaging Youth

- 16% of respondents showed concern that the Youth (middle and high school age) are not staying as engaged or interested in the church as they would like to see, and there is desire for more engaging programs as well as stability in the role of Youth Minister

## 9. Re-engaging Lapsed Members and Retaining Existing

- Separate from, but related to membership growth and supporting diverse needs of the UPA, many respondents (15%) stated that we need to bring back members who have drifted away over the past few years as well as retain existing members

## 10. Keeping Church Relevant

- In these current times, it can be challenging to keep Church and God’s word relevant in the face of busy schedules and hectic lives. 14% of respondents cited this as a key issue for the UPA.