

Analysis of Survey Distributed to VU Members in February 2026

Background

Completion of the survey was voluntary. 20 surveys were returned, representing a total of 31 respondents. Nine surveys were from single households, and 11 surveys were from 2-person households.

Note: The survey consisted of 2 questions to be answered 'yes' or 'no' and 14 questions where answers ranged from 1 to 5, with 1 of little or no importance and 5 being very important to the respondent(s). The expectation was that respondents would circle a number; however, 7 of the respondents marked their survey sheet with tick marks, vs circling a number. When a tick mark was made between 2 numbers, ex. Between 4 and 5, the answer was interpreted as being the lower number, ex. 4.

Responses ranked 1 or 2 were interpreted to be of no/little importance, while responses 4 and 5 were combined and interpreted as being important/very important.

Two of the questions (COF has a full-time minister, and weekly Bible study/other faith formation programs) were not answered by all respondents.

Analysis of Survey Results

The majority of Visions United (VU) members prefer to join a Community of Faith (COF) that is situated in Moncton, though 20 respondents (65%) would consider joining a COF located in Riverview. Only 5 respondents (16%) would consider joining a COF located in Sackville.

Factors that respondents considered to be most important (rated as 4 or 5) when discerning which new COF to join included:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| - Good music | 28 responses (90%) |
| - Good parking/good access into building | 27 responses (87%) |
| - Theology similar to VU's (progressive) | 25 responses (81%) |
| - Strong outreach locally and internationally | 24 responses (77%) |
| - Active volunteers | 22 responses (71%) |
| - Good air quality in the building | 22 responses (71%) |
| - Coffee and conversation held weekly | 19 responses (52%) |

Note: theology similar to VU's (progressive) had the highest number of '5' responses (17) while good music had 15 responses ranked as '5'.

Respondents were open to the COF having a full-time minister, or a part-time minister.

Other factors that were ranked as less important to the respondents included:

- Active participation of members in Sunday service (10 respondents (32%) were neutral while 15 respondents (48%) rated this factor as important/very important).
- Weekly programs for children/youth (9 respondents (29%) had no/little interest, 9 respondents (29%) were neutral while 13 respondents (42%) rated this as important/very important). The answers to this question could be interpreted in a couple of different ways. Given that VU has very few children in its congregation, there is limited need for

children's programs. But if the new COF hopes to remain viable in the long term, programs to engage children and youth are important

- Weekly programs for seniors was rated as '3' (neutral) by 21 (68%) respondents and important by 5 respondents (16%). Either the VU congregation does not consider itself to be comprised mostly of seniors, or the seniors have active social lives outside of the church
- Weekly Bible study/other faith formation programs received a high number of neutral '3' rankings (12, or 41%) with the remaining responses evenly split between no/little interest and interested/very interested

Additional comments/criteria that individuals included on the survey included:

- Windows and light, looking out on world, not down in a dark cave
- Will require a ride, wherever we meet
- Any thoughts of sticking together in a rented space to give more time to process the situation?
- Air quality is important to me but 1 person's perception may be different from others
- COF could be online anywhere
- We plan not to transfer our membership, but to experience most area UCs, at least for 3-6 months, but may transfer to or attend more frequently, congregation with greatest 'ex-Visions population'
- Good people
- Minister needs to be outgoing and have musical talents
- Coffee and conversation could be every other week
- Weekly Bible study/other faith formation programs could be online