

## **Sermon: Congregational Reflection (Laurel and Amanda)**

*Risk Assessment Results*  
UUCSW Reproductive Rights Group

Laurel: As many of you know, we have a church podcast, which Amanda and I do together. We talk about the month's sermons, world events, and how we make sense of the complexities of life. It's equal parts deep and giggly. We're also rebranding to call our podcast "ChUUrch Talk" a la Car Talk, but you can still find it at "UUCSW Reflections" wherever you find podcasts. Amanda, do you want to introduce yourself?

Amanda: Hi everyone! For those who don't know me, I'm Amanda Hall and I grew up in UUCSW. I live in Philly now, where I recently finished my masters in social policy and data analytics at UPenn. Last month the reproductive rights group sent out a survey asking about our willingness to take on different kinds of risk as a congregation in service to justice work, and today Laurel and I are going to go through some of the results and takeaways. Laurel, can you remind everyone why we did this survey in the first place?

[Laurel response, conversation]

Amanda: Yup. So we had 39 responses, and I'm going to do a brief overview of the results right now. I'm also going to host a Zoom meeting going more in depth into the results for those who are interested, and that's going to be November 30th at 7 pm.

For scene-setting, I'll say that these responses represent only a snapshot in time and are likely to vary for different issues, types of actions, and depending on who we define as "decision-makers." While the survey was intended to be general, it did explicitly mention abortion and reproductive rights. The responses are also likely to be biased in favor of people who read their newsletter emails and are comfortable with technology, since that's how we collected responses.

On to the results!

**[Amanda starts screen sharing]**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZA8JnxB1Hti80HRWq\\_AXVXzy\\_VxVEJw\\_EYY2QMkmQ5M/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZA8JnxB1Hti80HRWq_AXVXzy_VxVEJw_EYY2QMkmQ5M/edit?usp=sharing)

{explain how to read the graphs}

Laurel, what surprised you about these results and what are your key takeaways?

[Laurel response]

My biggest takeaways:

- moderate appetite for risk and it varies a lot among individuals.
  - That means we'll need to navigate disagreements about how we should proceed, and that requires trusting each other to engage in generative and nonviolent conflict. Disagreement can't stop us from taking action, because there's risk to inaction too.
- As a group, we're most aligned on wanting to find a balance between consensus and urgency, and we want to move together.
- Again: I'm also going to host a Zoom meeting going more in depth into the results for those who are interested, and that's going to be November 30th at 7 pm.

I'll hand it over to you, Laurel, to open up the discussion to the rest of the congregation.

[Laurel facilitates Views from the Pews]