

Presenting the Consultation on Ministry to and With Youth

For use with: Congregational Leadership, YAC/DYSC/RYSC Meetings, LREDA or UUMA Chapter Meetings

For use by: Taskforce members, UUA staff, Congregational Leaders (youth and adult), District Leaders (youth and adult), Members of LREDA and UUMA Chapters

Materials:

(Available on the Consultation website <http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/promotional.html>)

- Brochure
- Role Flyers for: District Staff, Religious Professionals, Youth Council Members, Youth, Youth Advisors
- Survey Outreach Form
- Congregational Commitments Sign-Up

The first key step of the Consultation is to educate about the process and encourage involvement and investment. This outline is a resource for people who are bringing news of the Consultation to their community and asking for their peers' or colleagues' leadership in the process.

What might you do during the time you have? Some of you might have only 5 minutes, and others might have an hour. So here are some key bits of information to convey to your peers or colleagues.

Optional opening activity (Do this only if you have time. The other three points are most important.)

Start out by getting people in the mindset of talking about youth ministry. Lead a brainstorm. The first question is: "What is ministry?" The second question is: "What is youth ministry?" End by examining what has been brainstormed. One important thing to emphasize is the difference between youth *ministry* and youth *programs*. Programs can be ministry, but they're not all that ministry entails. Which of these has the group focused on in their brainstorm? What might that say about the state of their youth ministry?

1. Explain the Process

The Consultation on Ministry to and With Youth is a two-year process to look at how we (youth and adults) do youth ministry throughout the Association. It is rooted in the congregations, and begins with a survey of youth in January and February 2006. The survey gives an opportunity for youth to voice their experiences with youth ministry, especially their varying levels of involvement in congregations.

The survey findings will inform intergenerational congregational conversations, which should be held in April or May 2006. These conversations should be collaboratively planned and attended by youth and adults in the congregation including: youth in the youth group, youth not in the youth group, the Minister, the Religious Educator, Youth

Advisor(s), the Congregation's Board President, parents of youth, the Church Administrator, and other key leaders in the congregation. Congregational Process Guides for organizing these conversations will be available by January 2006.

Then during the 06-07 church year districts and stakeholder organizations will also have conversations about their role in youth ministry. The district conversations will be co-facilitated by a youth-adult pair from the Taskforce (which is overseeing this whole process), who will work in conjunction with district leaders to schedule and organize these gatherings. Taskforce members will also work with core stakeholder organizations – Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA), UU Ministers Association (UUMA), Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Interweave, Youth Advisor Network, Canadian Unitarian Council, and District Staff. Other stakeholder groups (there are many) will be provided with process guides to hold self-facilitated youth ministry dialogues.

The process culminates in a Summit on Ministry to and With Youth in July 2007, which will be a representative gathering of stakeholders in youth ministry. The Summit will look at the information gathered over the previous two years and make recommendations to the UUA Board of Trustees for institutional change. You won't have to wait until then for transformation to happen though! Change will occur throughout the process as youth and adults put careful thought into the current and future state of Unitarian Universalist youth ministry.

2. What is the timeline?

January-February 2006	Survey available to youth
April-May 2006	Congregational Conversations
September 2006-May 2007	District Gatherings
July 2006-May 2007	Stakeholder Gatherings
July 2007	Summit on Ministry to and With Youth

****3. What can you do?***

- Reach out to youth ages 12-20 to take the survey. We are trying to reach three groups of youth:
 - YRUU youth (continental, district, and local)
 - Youth involved in their congregations but not in YRUU
 - Youth who left their congregation after RE, Junior High, or Coming of Age

You can either:

- Send Beth Dana the roster of youth who are and have been involved in your congregation. Any names and contact information sent will be used ONLY for the purposes of this survey. We believe that if youth receive the survey individually and also from their congregation, it will reinforce the importance of having their voice heard.
- Provide a contact person from your congregation, who will promise to distribute the survey to the youth.

- Encourage congregational leaders (youth, ministers, religious educators, Board presidents) to make a commitment to having a congregational conversation during April or May. Get a specific contact person at each congregation who we can send the process guide to. This person agrees to organize and schedule the conversation for April or May. Ultimately, the congregational conversations should be organized by a youth and adult team or pair. Send these contact people to Beth Dana.
- For district youth leadership: District youth leadership can/should collaborate with their District Executive or Program Consultant in reaching out to congregations as well as organizing the district gathering.

Send all information gathered to Beth Dana, Youth Ministry Associate.

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