



Central Midwest District Congregational Conversation Results

This fact sheet includes basic information and some of the issues, problems and solutions, which **Central Midwest District** congregations discussed in their congregational conversations.

Do these results match what you would expect from other congregations in your district? What would you expect to be different?

The Basics

- Four (4) congregations in the **Central Midwest District** returned report forms.
- All of these congregations are **mid-size congregations**.
- Three (3) of them are **Welcoming Congregations**.

Intergenerational Community Relations

- One congregation spoke strongly about its intergenerational community. They mentioned "**activities to build relationship** among youth and adults" and "positive congregational support" for youth ministry. However, they also said there was "**apathy** by youth and adult church" and decided to **integrate youth into the church structure** and "educate congregation to get buy-in about **attitudinal change**."
- Another congregation said their congregation was not very aware of youth and decided to **improve communication with and awareness** of youth.

Mission, Vision and Priorities

- Two congregations mentioned that youth ministry was a **focus** of their congregation. One said **mission** drove their youth ministry: "information about what youth and adults want, where we are now and accountability (so we can see if we do what we say)."
- One congregation decided to "**develop vision of youth ministry**" and will seek help from the "Youth office of UUA, RE Council, board, leadership council, MRE, youth advisors and youth in their congregation."
- Another congregation decided to have "youth ministry set as priority by revitalized membership committee."



Central Midwest District Congregational Conversation Results

Curriculum, Resources and Transitional Age Youth

- One congregation recognized the “**self-direction**” in their youth ministry and another celebrated their “**dynamic and adaptive** program.”
- Two congregations decided to **change their curriculum** and three decided to better **support middle school youth** in their community.

Leadership Development and Opportunities for Practice

- One congregation said: “We have had two youth on our **district youth steering committee.**”
- Two congregations decided to include **youth positions on committees.**

Serving the Spiritual Needs of Youth

- Two congregations said that their **minister’s contact** with youth was a positive part of their youth ministry.
- One congregation said its “**worship services are not youth friendly**” and decided to “enhance experience at the beginning of the service by encouraging more joys and sorrows from youth and **re-examining ‘kids’ content’** before dismissal to church school.”
- One congregation decided to **seek a younger minister** and involve a youth on their ministerial search committee.