



Florida District Congregational Conversation Results

This fact sheet includes basic information and some of the issues, problems and solutions, which **Florida 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

- Three (3) congregations from the **Florida District** returned report forms.
- Two (2) were **small** congregations and one (1) was a **mid-size** congregation. Two were **Welcoming Congregations**.
- None currently have a youth position on their Board of Trustees.

Intergenerational Community Relations

- One congregation said youth “feel like a part of the fellowship – included, **not marginalized**” and described its membership as “**loving and caring.**”
- One congregation discussed its need to find a **youth advisor**.

Mission, Vision and Priorities

- One congregation said it lacked a “sense of direction” or “**long range planning**” and planning for youth ministry and decided to do “**goal setting**” as a result of their conversation.

Curriculum, Resources and Transitional Age Youth

- All three congregations had **youth groups**.
- One congregation said they had “not enough **transitional programs.**”
- Two congregations mentioned that they had adequate **financial support** for youth ministry.

Outreach and Involvement

- The smaller congregations identified their **location** and small **size** as restraining forces for their youth ministry.



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What strategies did Florida District congregations come up with to address their challenges?

- Find a **youth advisor**
 - Define the role of the youth advisor
 - Form a search committee
 - Get a budget/funding
 - Schedule training
 - Create an evaluation process.
 - In the meantime, one congregation discussed having a youth team fill the role of youth advisor.
- **Opportunities** for youth
 - Community building
 - Sunday services
 - Responsibility for leading the group rotates
- Create **intergenerational connections**
 - Youth-adult mentorship (including specifically high school seniors with mentors)
 - Older youth mentor younger youth
 - Interact with the minister
- Celebrate **location** of congregation
 - Use facilities creatively
 - Open space up to outside groups
 - Better signage/recognition/advertising
 - Use facilities as source of income for programs
- **Capitalize on success** with youth programs to help **fund** their continued success
 - Books
 - Films
 - Workshops
 - Resources, models
- Address the needs of **bridging youth/young adults**
 - Involve youth in developing young adult programs using UUA resources and other church models
 - Create more transitional ceremonies and celebrations
 - Create graduation packages and alumni newsletter
 - Have presence on nearby campuses
 - Invite bridgers/young adults to participate in the church, attend Board meetings, etc.
- Create better **communication** between congregations and the district
 - More people from congregation should attend the district meeting
 - Invite district reps to speak at congregations