



Southwest District Congregational Conversation Results

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

- Eight (8) congregations from the **Southwest District** returned report forms.
- Three (3) were **small** congregations and five (5) were mid-size congregations.
- Half of the congregations were **Welcoming Congregations**.
- None currently have a youth position on their Board of Trustees.

Intergenerational Community Relations

- Three (3) congregations mentioned the **strong bonds** within their youth group.
- Five (5) congregations in SWD found that there was **not enough youth visibility** or a "**lack of youth interest** in larger church" for youth ministry to be successful.
- Three (3) congregations said there was **little connection** between youth and adults in their congregations.
- Four (4) congregations decided to **improve communication** and scheduling as a result of their conversation.

Mission, Vision and Priorities

- Two (2) congregations had a **Youth Adult Committee**.
- Three (3) congregations described how they **valued and respect the youth** in their congregation.
- Two (2) congregations said they **lacked a vision** for youth ministry and decided to make youth ministry a **priority** as a result of their discussion.



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Curriculum, Resources and Transitional Age Youth

- Seven (7) congregations in SWD have **youth groups** and six (6) of them have youth advisors. Only one of these advisors is paid and works 6 hours/week.
- One congregation has a paid youth advisor who works 13 hours/week, but does not have a youth group.
- Half the congregations said that their **youth programming is strong**.
- One congregation decided to have “**monthly parent meetings**” as a result of their discussion.

Leadership Development and Opportunities for Practice

- Three (3) congregations said **youth leadership** drove their youth ministry.
- One congregation decided to create positions for **youth on committees** and on their **board** as a result of their conversation.

Serving the Spiritual Needs of Youth

Four (4) congregations said that their **worship services did not engage youth**.

- Two (2) of these decided to **change worship** so that served youth needs.
- Three (3) of these decided to include youth on the **worship committee**.